

POL

27 - 7

BIAPRA - NIGERIA

STATE DEPARTMENT SYSTEMATIC REVIEW

☐ Retain classification ☐ Change/classify to _____

☒ Declassify with concurrence of _____

EO 12958, 25X

FPC/HDR by [Signature]

Date:

3/26/96

Withdrawal No. _____

0038

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Authority	VND 959/503
By	MNARA Date 10/3/05



POL 27-7 BIAFRA-NIGERIA
Department of State **TELEGRAM**

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PAGE 01 LAGOS 07469 191142Z

54
ACTION AF 18

INFO OCT 01, EUR 17, IO 13, AID 28, SR 01, ORM 03, SCA 01, SCS 04, UPW 01,

UCF 05, CIAE 00, JPM 04, HI 02, INR 07, LI 03, NSAE 00, NSC 10, P 04,

RSC 01, PRS 01, SS 20, USIA 12, RSR 01, 157 W

112998

RI 191000Z AUG 69
FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8469
INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
AMEMBASSY WARSAW
USMISSION GENEVA
USMISSION USUN NY
AMCONSUL KADUNA
AMCONSUL IBAJANI
CINCSRIKE
DIA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LAGOS 7469

SUBJ: OBSERVERS VISIT POWS

FOLLOWING IS TEXT BRITISH TELEGRAM OF AUGUST 15 ON
ABOVE SUBJECT:

1. OBSERVER TEAM TO NIGERIA VISITED PRISONERS OF WAR IN
KIRIKIRI AND YAKUBU GOWON STREET PRISONS IN LAGOS ON
14 AUG.

2. TEAM COMPOSED OF MAJ HARPER (CANADA), COL. BIERNACKI
(POLAND), MAJOR GEN VON VEGESACK AND MAJ TOREFALKI (SWEDEN),
COL CAIRNS (UK), ACCOMPANIED BY BRIG SAIDUDDIN KHAN AND
DR. JENSEN (UN).

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3. IN KIRIKIRI SAW TWO SECESSIONIST OFFICERS RECENTLY CAPTURED IN MID-WEST. ONE, A FIRST LIEUTENANT, IS THE SON OF SIR LOUIS MBANEFO. HE IS A FORMER COURT REGISTRAR AND STUDENT OF NUSKKA UNIVERSITY AND WAS CAPTURED ON 4 JULY (PRISON RECORDS INDICATE THAT HE SURRENDERED). HE STATES THAT HE WAS NOT ILL-TREATED BUT REMAINS VERY STAUNCHLY SECESSIONIST AND IS CONFIDENT OF EVENTUAL VICTORY OF SECESSIONISTS WHOM HE STATES HAVE AMPLE FOOD, WEAPONS AND AMMUNITION. BOTH THESE OFFICERS COMPLAINED ABOUT LACK OF MEDICAL FACILITIES IN KIRIKIRI.

4. INTERVIEWED TWENTY SECESSIONIST OTHER RANK POW IN KIRIKIRI WHO HAVE BEEN TAKEN IN MID-WEST DURING LAST SIX WEEKS. HALF WERE CAPTURED AND HALF SURRENDERED. MOST ALLEGED THAT THEY HAD BEEN BADLY TREATED AND HAD BEEN BOUND HAND AND FOOT AFTER CAPTURE. THIS IS NORMAL PRACTICE WITH BOTH SIDES AND SCARS WHICH WERE DISPLAYED WERE INVARIABLY OLD ONES GOING BACK TO CHILDHOOD.

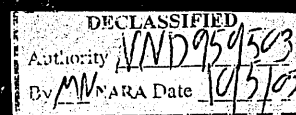
5. THERE ARE OVER SIX HUNDRED POW IN KIRIKIRI AND CONDITIONS, ALTHOUGH IMPROVED, ARE FAR FROM SATISFACTORY. SHORTAGE OF PRISON STAFF RESTRICTS EXERCISE PERIODS. RED CROSS VISITS HAVE DECREASED. UN REPRESENTATIVE WILL PURSUE THE PROBLEMS OF IMPROVED MEDICAL FACILITIES, PROVISION OF RECREATIONAL FACILITIES AND RED CROSS VISITS.

6. AT YAKUBU GOWON STREET (FORMERLY BROAD STREET) PRISON CONDITIONS CONTINUE TO IMPROVE. THERE ARE AT PRESENT 144 POW ACCOMMODATED IN TWO-BEDDED CELLS. EXISTING BUILDINGS ARE BEING ADAPTED TO ACCOMMODATE A FURTHER 188 AND WHEN COMPLETED THERE WILL ALSO BE A READING ROOM AND A MEDICAL CENTRE WITHIN THE PRISON. THE ORGANIZATION, CLEANLINESS AND DISCIPLINE OF THIS PRISON IS IMPRESSIVE.

7. THERE IS NOW ONE OFFICER IN THIS PRISON, LT VICTOR WHO WAS CAPTURED IN OKPAI AREA OF MID-WEST RECENTLY AND ARRIVED HERE ONLY TWO DAYS AGO. HE IS TIRED OF THE WAR AND ONLY WANTS IT TO END. WHEN ASKED ABOUT THE FOOD SITUATION IN REBEL HELD TERRITORY, HE STATED THAT ALTHOUGH CIVILIANS WERE OFTEN HUNGRY, TROOPS WERE WELL FED ON FOOD SUPPLIED

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BY RELIEF AGENCIES AND WHICH WAS DELIVERED TO UNITS DIRECT
FROM THE AIRFIELD BY MILITARY TRANSPORT.

EMBASSY COMMENT: FOREGOING OBVIOUSLY SUPPLIED BY U.K.
OBSERVER COL. CAIRNS. IF PAST FORM FOLLOWED, MORE
DETAILED VERSIONS WILL BE RELEASED OFFICIALLY IN DUE
COURSE BY OBSERVER TEAM AND BY UNSYG REPRESENTATIVES.
EXEMPT
OLSON
BT

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PAGE 01 ROME 03879 241834Z

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ACTION AF 18

INFO OCT 01, EUR 17, IO 13, AID 28, CIAE 00, DODE 00, JPM 04, H 02, DNR 07,

LI 03, NSAE 00, NSC 10, P 04, RSC 01, SP 02, SS 20, USIA 12, UCF 05,

SCS 04, SCA 01, SR 01, ORM 03, E 15, COM 08, INT 06, RSR 01, 186 W

R 241703Z JUN 69
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1293
INFO AMEMBASSY LAGOS

UNCLAS ROME 3879

REF: ROME 3816

POL 27-7 Biafra - Nigeria

FOLLOWING PUBLICATION OF "EUROPEAN" ARTICLE REPORTED REFTEL,
"SPECIAL DELEGATE FOR BIAFRA IN ITALY" JUNE 23 ISSUED DECLARATION
ATTRIBUTED MBANEFO BENYING MAKING THE "FALSE AND ILL-INTENTIONED
STATEMENT" ATTRIBUTED TO HIM, ESPECIALLY ALLEGATION THAT BIAFRA
RECEIVED \$3 MILLION FROM AGIP. MBANEFO SAID HE HAD NEVER HAD
ANY DISCUSSION WITH ITALIAN GOVERNMENT OR ANY OIL COMPANY ON
PAYMENT TO BIAFRA OF ROYALTIES, INDEMNITY OR RANSOM.

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- Nigeria

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PAGE 01 ROME 03816 231648Z

7
ACTION AF 18

INFO OCT 01, EUR 17, IO 13, AID 28, CIAE 00, DODE 00, JPM 04, HI 02, INR 07,
L 03, NSAE 00, NSC 10, P 04, RSC 01, SP 02, SS 20, USIA 12, UCF 05,
SCS 04, SCA 01, SR 01, ORM 03, E 15, INT 06, COM 08, RSR 01, 186 W
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R 231520Z JUN 69
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1262
INFO AMEMBASSY LAGOS

UNCLAS ROME 3816

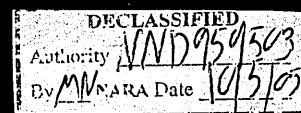
SUBJECT: BIAFRA

IN INTERVIEW PUBLISHED WEEKLY /EUROPEO/ ISSUE JUNE 26
SIR LOUIS MBANEFO REVIEWS RECENT EVENTS INVOLVING ITALIAN OIL
WORKERS, JUSTIFIES THEIR TRIAL AND CONDEMNATION, STATES OPERATION
CARRIED AGAINST AGIP CAMP AT KWALE WAS PREPARED AND DELIBERATE,
AND CLAIMS BIAFRA RIGHTFULLY COLLECTED DLR 3 MILLION FROM AGIP
AS "ROYALTIES" RATHER THAN RANSOM OF WORKERS. INTERVIEW WILL
BE TRANSLATED AND POUCHED ADDRESSEES.
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RR POL 7 Gabon

RR POL 27-7 Biafra-Nigeria

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PAGE 01 ROME 03780 201914Z

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ACTION AF 18

INFO OCT 01, EUR 17, UCF 05, SS 20, JPM 04, NSC 10, CIAE 00, DODE 00, INR 07

NSAE 00, P 04, RSC 01, USIA 12, IO 13, RSR 01, 113 W
129644

R 201610Z JUN 69
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1245
INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN
AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE
AMEMBASSY PARIS

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FOR PAST FEW DAYS GOI HAS BEEN STAGING RED CARPET ROMAN HOLIDAY FOR GOIC ARMED FORCES MINISTER KOUADIO, GABONESE PUBLIC WORKS MINISTER MALEKOU AND GOG INFO COMMISSIONER MARTIN BONGO, WHO, WITH WIVES, ARE VISITING ITALY AS GUESTS ITALIAN GOVERNMENT. (EXPENSES REPORTEDLY BEING PAID BY ENI). INVITATION EXTENDED TO THEM AS GESTURE OF APPRECIATION FOR THEIR EFFORTS ON BEHALF ITALIAN OIL WORKERS RECENTLY FREED FROM BIAFRA. HIGHLIGHT OF VISIT WAS JUNE 19 RECEPTION BY PRESIDENT SARAGAT, DURING WHICH VISITORS WERE DECORATED. HOST FOR GROUP HAS BEEN FOREIGN OFFICE UNDERSECRETARYSHIP PEDINI WHO ALSO ACCOMPANIED THEM TO PRIVATE AUDIENCE WITH POPE PAUL.

DECON 6/20/70. ACKLEY

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PAGE 01 ABIDUA 01623 131756Z

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ACTION AF 18

INFO OCT 01, EUR 17, IO 13, CIAE 00, DODE 00, JPM 04, HI 02, INR 07, LI 03,

NSAE 00, NSC 10, P 04, RSC 01, SPI 02, SS 20, USIA 12, AID 28, UCF 05,

RSR 01, SCS 04, SCA 01, 153 W

082025

R 131640Z JUN 69
FM AMEMBASSY ABIDUAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4101
INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LAGOS

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SUBJECT: LEASE OF SALLY GOATHER

REF: ABIDUAN 1594

JUNE 13: FRATERNITE-MATIN HEADLINES HOUPHOUET'S AND BONGO'S
ROLE SECURING RELEASE BY BIAFRANS OF SALLY GOATHER. QUOTES
EXCHANGE OF TELEGRAMS BETWEEN OJUKWU AND HOUPHOUET. EDITORIAL
SAYS: "OJUKWU HAS AGAIN LISTENED TO VOICE OF HIS FRIENDS."
LAUDS MAGNANIMITY OJUKWU GESTURE IN FACE "THUNDERING CANNON"
FOR WHICH HE KNOWS WHO ARE REALLY RESPONSIBLE AND WORLD'S
INDIFFERENCE BIAFRAN PLIGHT. CALLS ON SALLY AND AGIP TECHNICANS
REPAY OJUKWU BY MAKING WORLD AWARE DRAMA "BATTERED BIAFRAN
PEOPLE. HOPES WORLD NOT RPT NOT BLINDED BY INFLUENCE OF INTERESTS
JEOPARDIZED IN AREA AND VOICE OF LIBERTY AND JUSTICE STILL
AUDIBLE.

COMMENT: HOUPHOUET AGAIN SEIZED INITIATIVE TO PLAY MEDIATING
ROLE AND AT SAME TIME APPEAL FOR WORLD SUPPORT OF BIAFRA.
BRITISH EMBASSY TELLS US IT MADE NO RPT NO DEMARCHE WITH
HOUPHOUET ON RELEASE SALLY GOATHER. SAID BRITISH EFFORTS
DIRECTED THROUGH RED CROSS. MORGAN

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PAGE 01 LIBREV 00601 141315Z

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ACTION AF 18

INFO: OCT 01, EUR 17, IO 13, UCF 05, UPW 01, SCS 04, SCA 01, SRI 01, ORM 03,

CIAE 00, DODE 00, JPM 04, H 02, INR 07, LI 03, NSAE 00, NSC 10, PI 04,

RSC 01, SP 02, SS 20, USTA 12, AID 28, RSR 01, 158 W
089251

R 121620Z JUN 69
FM AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2647
INFO AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN
AMEMBASSY PARIS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LIBREVILLE 601

SUBJECT: BONGO AND HOUPHEUT-BOIGNY APPEAL TO OOUKWU FOR
RELEASE OF BRITISH NURSE

GABON MATIN: TODAY, JUNE 12, CARRIES AFPI STORY FROM ABIDJAN THAT
BONGO AND HOUPHEUT-BOIGNY HAVE APPEALED TO OOUKWU FOR RELEASE
BRITISH NURSE SALLY COATCHER ARRESTED BIAFRA EARLY JUNE
DECON
BANE

Libreville 601
6-12-69

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PAGE 01 ABIDUA 01594 111816Z

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ACTION: AF 18

INFO: OCT 01, EUR 17, IO 13, CIAE 00, DODE 00, JPM 04, H 02, INR 07, L 03,

NSAE 00, NSC 10, P 04, RSC 01, SPI 02, SS 20, USIA 12, AID 28, UCF 05,

RSR 01, 148 W

065868

R 111638Z JUN 69
FM AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4084
INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LAGOS

UNCLAS ABIDJAN 1594

SUBJECT: HOUPHOUET TELEGRAM TO OUUKWU

JUNE 11 FRATERNITE-MATIN REPORTS TEXT TELEGRAM SENT BY HOUPHOUET
AND GABON PRESIDENT BONGO CALLING ON OUUKWU FREE UK CITIZEN
SALLY GOATHER IN SPITE OF MASSIVE BRITISH MILITARY AID FEDERAL
SIDE. OUUKWU ASKED DEMONSTRATE ONCE AGAIN NOBILITY BIAFRAN
CAUSE. MORGAN

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ACTION: AF 18

INFO: OCT 01, EUR 17, IO 13, CIAE 00, DODE 00, JPM 04, H 02, INR 07, L 03,

NSAE 00, NSC 10, P 04, RSC 01, SP 02, SS 20, USIA 12, AID 28, E 15,

COM 08, INT 06, UCF 05, UPW 01, SR 01, ORM 03, RSR 01, / 182 W

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R 091345Z JUN 69
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1096
INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY LONDON

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 3436

REF: LAGOS 5104

1. INSTRUCTIONS TO NIGERIAN AMBASSADOR (LAGOS 5103: NOTAL) DELIVERED TO HIM MID-AFTERNOON JUNE 6. HE CHOSE IGNORE THEM, HOWEVER, EAD THERE NO NIGERIAN REPRESENTATION AT ITALIAN CEREMONIES FOR RETURNEES OR VICTIMS. THIS, WE BELIEVE, IS UNFORTUNATE LOSS OF OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE POSITIVE POINTS FOR FMG. IMPORTANCE OF RECENT EVENTS DEMONSTRATED BY FACT THAT RETURNEES WERE GREETED PERSONALLY BY PRESIDENT SARAGAT AT AIRPORT AT 2330 SATURDAY NIGHT AND WERE TAKEN DIRECTLY FROM THERE TO MIDNIGHT AUDIENCE WITH POPE. RETURNEES THEN CONTINUED ON TO MILAN TO ATTEND VICTIMS' FUNERAL, AT WHICH GOVERNMENT WAS REPRESENTED BY BOTH PRIME MINISTER AND FOREIGN MINISTER.

① 2. EMBOFF HAD TALKED TO AMBASSADOR GARBA MORNING JUNE 6. RE GREAT ADVANTAGES ACCRUING TO FMG INTERESTS IN ITALY FROM BIAFRAN HANDLING OF WHOLE PRISONERS EPISODE. CONSIDERABLE SUSPICION THEN EXISTED IN GARBA'S MIND THAT PEDINI HAD MADE SOME DEAL WITH OJUKWU RE ITALIAN RECOGNITION OR EVEN SUPPLY OF AIRCRAFT BIAFRA. EMBOFF SUCCEEDED IN DISPELLING MOST OF HIS FEARS OF A GOI HOSTILE ACTION TOWARD FMG.

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3. COMMENT: GARBA HAS HAD ROUGH TIME DURING LAST TWELVE MONTHS IN WHICH BIAFRAN PROPAGANDA HAS HAD A FIELD DAY IN ITALY. THOUGH HE HAS MISSED CHANCE FOR FAVORABLE COVERAGE FOR HIS SIDE, RECENT SITUATION REMAINS UNCHANGED, I.E., MASSIVE DAMAGE TO BIAFRAN IMAGE IN ITALY.

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INFO OCT 01, EUR 17, NEA 13, IO 13, UCF 05, UPW 01, CIAE 00, DODE 00, JRM 00

H 02, INR 07, L 03, NSAE 00, NSC 10, P 04, RSC 01, SPI 02, SS 20, USIA 12.

AID 28, SR 01, ORM 03, SCS 04, SCA 01, RSR 01, /171 W
049020

R 091225Z JUN 69
FM AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4063
INFO AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SAALAM
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE
AMEMBASSY COTONOU
AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE
USMISSION GENEVA
USMISSION USUN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ABIDJAN 1552

SUBJECT: ARRIVAL AGIP WORKERS ABIDJAN

REF: ABIDJAN 1526 *Pol 27-7 Biafra Niger*

1. ENTIRE FRONT PAGE JUNE 9 FRATERNITE-MATIN DEVOTED WELCOMING CEREMONIES ARRIVAL AGIP WORKERS ABIDJAN. GROUP MET AT AIRPORT THEN DRIVEN PRESIDENTIAL PALACE WHERE EMOTIONAL EXPRESSIONS OF GRATITUDE MADE BY PEDINI IN 20 MINUTE SPEECH FOLLOWED BY BRIEFER REMARKS BY THE FRG AND LEBANESE CHARGES AND REPRESENTATIVE OF AGIP WORKERS. HOUPHOUET MAGNANIMOUSLY ACCEPTED THANKS STRESSING HUMANITARIAN NATURE OF BIAFRAN GESTURE HOPED IT WOULD AWAKEN WORLD CONSCIENCE WHICH GUILTY OF INDIFFERENCE TOWARD BIAFRAN GENOCIDE.

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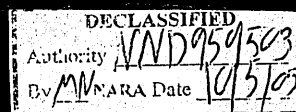
PAGE 02 ABIDJA 01552 091443Z

2. COMMENT, STOPPING OFF ABIDJAN ARRANGED BY HOUPHOUET TO UNDERLINE HIS ROLE OBTAINING GAINING TECHNICIANS RELEASE. NO DOUBT HOPES EXAMPLE OF HIS SUCCESS NOT LOST ON OTHER AFRICAN AND NON-AFRICAN LEADERS. OJUKWU QUOTED BY FRATERNITE MATIN AS SUGGESTING THAT FRIENDS OF THE TWO WARRING SIDES GET TOGETHER FOR PRELIMINARY CONVERSATIONS LOOKING TOWARD PEACE.

3. VOA INTERVIEW WITH PED TI PRORYCU DENIAL OF 20 MILLION DOLLAR FIGURE AS RANSOM FOR RELEASE BUT LEFT DISTINCT IMPRESSION SOME MONEY INDEED INVOLVED.
MORGAN

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ACTION: AF 18

INFO: OCT 01, EUR 17, IO 13, UCF 05, UPW 01, CIAE 00, DODE 00, JPM 04, H 02,

INR 07, LI 03, NSAE 00, NSC 10, PI 04, RSC 01, SP 02, SS 20, USIA 12,

AID 28, PC 04, SR 01, ORM 03, RSR 01, 157 W

050034

R 091645Z JUN 69
FM AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2637
INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LIBREVILLE 588

SUBJECT: AGIP TECHNICIANS

WITH PRIDE GABONESE GOVERNMENT MEDIA HAVE GIVEN SUBSTANTIAL
COVERAGE TO RELEASE OF 18 AGIP TECHNICIANS FROM BIAFRA,
TAKING FULL CREDIT FOR GABON AND IVORY COAST. TV COVERAGE
OF ARRIVAL OF TECHNICIANS IN GABON AND THEIR MEETING WITH
PRESIDENT BONGO WERE INTRODUCED BY EDITORIAL STRESSING
THAT PRESIDENT'S ACTION IN CASE DEMONSTRATED, AS DID HIS
EFFORTS LAST JANUARY RECONCILE DIFFERENCES AMONG CENTRAL
AFRICAN STATES, POSITIVE PEACEFUL AND MEDIATORY ROLE HE
PLAYING AFRICAN AFFAIRS. INTERESTING NOTE THAT BONGO
DID NOT TAKE CENTER OF STAGE TO REPLY TO ITALIAN SEC STATE
PEDINI'S EXPRESSION OF GRATITUDE BUT TURNED TASK OVER TO
FON MIN AYONNE. MEDIA ALSO COVERED ONWARD PROGRESS OF
TECHNICIANS TO ABIDJAN AND TO ROME AND AUDIENCE WITH POPE.
BANE

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INFO: OCT 01, EUR 17, IO 13, CIAE 00, DODE 00, JPM 04, HI 02, INR 07, LI 03,

NSAE 00, NSC 10, P 04, RSC 01, SPI 02, SS 20, USIA 12, SCS 04, SCA 01,

SRI 01, ORM 03, UPW 01, UCF 05, RSR 01, AID 28, /158 W
038950

O P 070810Z JUN 69 ZFF-1

FM AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

TO AMEMBASSY ROME IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BONN

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2632

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LIBREVILLE 583

SUBJECT: AGIP TECHNICIANS ARRIVE LIBREVILLE FROM BIAFRA

1. AGIP TECHNICIANS ARRIVED LIBREVILLE 0730 THIS MORNING, JUNE 7, IN FRENCH RED CROSS CHARTERED DC-4 EMPLOYED IN LIBREVILLE-BIAFRA RELIEF AIRLIFT. GROUP ACCOMPANIED ON FLIGHT FROM BIAFRA BY GABONESE MINISTER OF TRANSPORT MALEKOU AND GABONESE PRELATE PLUS FEW OTHER AFRICANS AND EUROPEANS.

2. TECHNICIANS TIRED FROM ALL NIGHT WAIT (THEY ORIGINALLY DUE ARRIVE 2300 LAST NIGHT) BUT OTHERWISE APPEAR REASONABLY GOOD CONDITION. THEY OBVIOUSLY RELIEVED AND ARRIVAL CHARGED WITH SOME EMOTION. TWO GERMAN AND ABOUT DOZEN ITALIAN NEWS AND CAMERAMEN ON HAND FOR OCCASION.

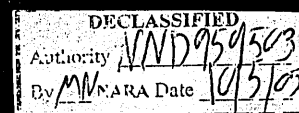
3. TECHNICIANS TAKEN IMMEDIATELY TO FRENCH MILITARY HOSPITAL FOR MEDICAL EXAMINATION PRIOR TO BEING RECEIVED LATER IN MORNING BY PRESIDENT BONGO. UNDERSTAND GROUP THEN TO DEPART IN ALITALIA DC-8 WHICH ARRIVED THIS MORNING.

BANEI

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ACTION: AF 18

INFO: OCT 01, EUR 17, NEA 13, IO 13, AID 28, SR 01, ORM 03, SCA 01, SCS 04,

UPW 01, UCF 05, CIAE 00, DODE 00, JPM 04, HI 02, INR 07, LI 03, NSAE 00,

NSC 10, PI 04, RSC 01, SPI 02, SS 20, USIA 12, RSR 01, /171 W

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R 061150Z JUN 69
FM AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4053
INFO AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SAALAM
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE
AMEMBASSY COTONOU
AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE
USMISSION GENEVA
USMISSION USUN

C O N F I D E N T I A L ABIDJAN 1526

SUBJECT: GOIC ROLE RELEASE AGIP TECHNICIANS

REF: ABIDJAN 1434 *pol 27-7 Biafra - Nigeria*

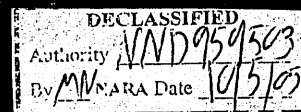
1. FRATENITE-MATIN OF JUNE 6 FRONT PAGES BIAFRAN PARDON OF AGIP TECHNICIANS. EXTOLS ROLE HOUPHOUET, BONGO IN GETTING OJUKWU'S AGREEMENT. ALSO SPECULATED THIS KIND OF INTERVENTION COULD POINT WAY TO REAL PEACE NEGOTIATIONS.

2. ITALIAN SOURCES TOLD US GOI APPROACHED IVORIANS IN ROME ABOUT MAY 18 REQUESTING HOUPHOUET INTERVENE WITH OJUKWU. HE JUMPED AT CHANCE. DURING NEGOTIATIONS HE BYPASSED BIAFRAN REPRESENTATIVE ABIDJAN WITH DIRECT COMMUNICATIONS. OJUKWU PROVIDED TRANSPORT FOR PEDINI LIBREVILLE AND WAS ABLE TO SMOOTH DIFFICULTIES BETWEEN GOI AND BIAFRANS OVER

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*Abidjan 1526
6-26-69*



Department of State **TELEGRAM**

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 ABIDJA 01526 091221Z

PROBLEMS OF DE FACTO RECOGNITION. TRIP OF M'BAHIA BLE AND
MARTIN BONGO TO OJUKWI JUNE 2 CROWNED SUCCESS OF HOUPHOUET
INITIATIVE. THE GABONESE ENTERED LATE IN THE GAME AND THEIR
ROLE WAS MINOR.
MORGAN

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Authority	VND 959503
By	MNARA
Date	10/5/05

Rem



Pol 27-7 Biafra-Nigeria

Department of State **TELEGRAM**

CONFIDENTIAL 627

PAGE 01 LIBREV 00579 061645Z

54
ACTION AF 18

INFO OCT 01, EUR 17, NEA 13, CIAE 00, DODE 00, JPM 04, H 02, INR 07, L 03,
NSAE 00, NSC 10, P 04, RSC 01, SPI 02, SS 20, USIA 12, INT 06, UCF 05,
UPW 01, AID 28, IO 13, RSR 01, /168 W

R 061110Z JUN 69
FM AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2629
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME

035290

*Libreville 579
6-6-69*

C O N F I D E N T I A L LIBREVILLE 559
SUBJECT: AGIP TECHNICIANS HELD BY BIAFRA
REF: LIBREVILLE 569 NOTAL

①

1. GABONESE-IVORIAN DELEGATION WHICH WENT BIAFRA SEEK
RELEASE AGIP OIL TECHNICIANS HELD THERE (REFTEL) HAS
RETURNED GABON. ACCORDING GABON MATIN JUNE 6, ITALIAN
SECRETARY OF STATE MARIO PEDINI, WHO ACCOMPANIED DELEGATION,
TOLD PRESS YESTERDAY HE "UNABLE AS YET PROVIDE PRECISE
CONCLUSIONS." ACCORDING REPORT, DELEGATION TALKED WITH
THE TECHNICIANS. PEDINI ALSO DISCUSSED MATTER WITH
BONGO YESTERDAY.

2. OUR GERMAN COLLEAGUES, WHO INTERESTED BECAUSE OF
THREE GERMANS IN AGIP GROUP, STILL HAVE NO FIRM INFO WHEN
AND HOW GROUP MAY LEAVE BIAFRA, THOUGH ONE OF ITALIANS WITH
PEDINI SAID TECHNICIANS MIGHT LEAVE JUNE 9.
BANE

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Authority VND 959503
By MNA Date 10/5/05



POL 27-7 Biafra Nigeria
Department of State **TELEGRAM**

CONFIDENTIAL 882

PAGE 01 LISBON 00916 061930Z

43
ACTION: AF 18

INFO: OCT 01, EUR 17, IO 13, UPW 01, UCF 05, SR 01, ORM 03, SCS 04, SCA 01,

CIAE 00, DODE 00, JPM 04, HI 02, INR 07, LI 03, NSAE 00, NSC 10, P 04,

RSC 01, SP 02, SS 20, USIA 12, AID 28, RSRI 01, /158 W
036509

R 061728Z JUN 69
FM AMEMBASSY LISBON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3442
INFO AMEMBASSY LAGOS 0123
USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY ROME

CONFIDENTIAL LISBON 0916

SUBJECT: PORTUGUESE ROLE IN RELEASE FOREIGN OILMEN IN BIAFRA

REF: LAGOS 5073

FORNMIN OFFICIAL (AFRICAN AFFAIRS) HAS CONFIRMED TO EMBASSY
THAT INFO LISBON 908 IS ACCURATE. OFFICIAL STATED FLATLY THAT
PORTUGAL HAS NOT SUSPENDED RELIEF FLIGHTS FROM SAO TOME
OR THREATENED TO SUSPEND THEM TO EFFECT RELEASE ITALIAN
OILMEN. HE CHARACTERIZED LAGOS ALLEGATION AS PSYCHOLOGICAL
WARFARE.

WELLMAN

CONFIDENTIAL
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By MWA Date 10/3/05

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POL 27-7 BIAFRA-NIGERIA

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INDICATE: ☐ COLLECT
☐ CHARGE TOLIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Classification

Origin	ACTION: Amembassy LAGOS
Info:	INFO : Amembassy ABIDJAN
	" BONN
	" LISBON
	" LONDON
	" ROME
	USMission GENEVA

Ref: Rome 3377

Subj: AGIP Workers in Biafra.

Department concurs that FMG could jeopardize public relations advantage it now enjoys if it publicly criticized GOI efforts to effect release of workers.

27-7

[ROGERS]

Drafted by: <i>AF/W:RPS</i>	6/5/69	Tel. Ext. 6402	Telegraphic transmission and classification approved by <i>AF/W - Roy M. Melbourne</i>
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Clearances: EUR/AIS-Mr. Johnson (sub) *af*LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
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8-65

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By *MV* NARA Date *10/5/05*



POL 27-7 Biafra - Nigeria
Department of State **TELEGRAM**

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PAGE 01 LISBON 00908 050929Z

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ACTION: AF 18

INFO: OCT 01, EUR 17, IO 13, E 15, COM 08, INT 06, CIAE 00, DODE 00, JPM 04,

HI 02, INR 07, L 03, NSAE 00, NSC 10, P 04, RSC 01, SP 02, SS 20, USIA 12,

AID 28, RSR 01, SCA 01, SRI 01, ORM 03, UCF 05, UPW 01, SCSE 00, /183 W
023920

P 050845Z JUN 69
FM AMEMBASSY LISBON
TO: SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3436
INFO AMEMBASSY LAGOS PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY ROME
USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMCONSUL LUANDA

UNCLAS LISBON 908

SUBJ: GOI INTERCESSION WITH BIAFRA OBTAINS RELEASE FOREIGN OILMEN

REF: LISBON 907

POL 27-7 Biafra - Nigeria
LISBON PRESS JUNE 5 HEADLINES: REPORT 18 FOREIGN TECHNICIANS
HELD BY BIAFRA TO BE PARDONED AND FREED AT PORTUGAL'S REQUEST.
ACCORDING TO OFFICIAL NEWS AGENCY BASED ON FOREIGN MINISTRY
SOURCES, ITALIAN GOVERNMENT'S APPEAL WAS RECEIVED IN LISBON
JUNE 3; FOREIGN MINISTRY IMMEDIATELY CALLED IN REPRESENTATIVE
OF BIAFRA AND EXPRESSED PORTUGUESE GOVERNMENT'S VERY STRONG
INTEREST IN LIBERATION OF CONDEMNED FOREIGNERS AND ON
AFTERNOON JUNE 4, BIAFRAN REPRESENTATIVE INFORMED MINISTRY
THAT BIAFRAN AUTHORITIES HAD DECIDED TO EXERCISE CLEMENCY AND
TO RELEASE
THE CONDEMNED PERSONS "AS SOON AS THE NECESSARY FORMALITIES
ARE COMPLIED WITH". WELLMAN

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Authority VND 959503
By MWA Date 10/5/05



Pol 27-7 Biafra
Department of State **TELEGRAM**

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PAGE 01 ROME 03377 051540Z

54
ACTION: AF 18

INFO: OCT 01, EUR 17, IO 13, CIAE 00, DODE 00, JPM 04, HI 02, INR 07, L 03,
NSAE 00, NSC 10, P 04, RSC 01, SPI 02, SS 20, USIA 12, UCF 05, UPW 01,
E 15, COM 08, INT 06, AID 28, SCS 04, SCA 01, RSR 01, 183 W
026254

R 051500Z JUN 69
FM: AMEMBASSY ROME
TO: SECSTATE WASHDC 1070
INFO: AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN
AMEMBASSY BONN
USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY LONDON

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE: ROME 3377

SUBJECT: AGIP WORKERS IN BIAFRA

1. WITH PORTUGUESE FOREIGN MINISTRY'S JUNE 4 ANNOUNCEMENT THAT DEATH SENTENCE COMMUTED AND SUPPLEMENTARY (THOUGH APPARENTLY STILL UNOFFICIAL) REPORTS THAT WORKERS' RELEASE IMMINENT, CRISIS ASPECTS OF PROBLEM ARE EBBING, THOUGH ITALIAN PRESS CONTINUES GIVE STORY BANNER HEADLINES.
 2. OUR IMPRESSION OF STATUS OF PROBLEM IS THAT VISIT OF SENIOR GOI REPS (PEDINI AND/OR MANCINI) TO BIAFRA MAY HAVE SATISFIED QUUKWU'S POLITICAL REQUIREMENTS, AND REMAINING "NEGOTIATIONS" WITH ENI (AGIP) WILL BE TO DETERMINE HOW MUCH MONEY IS REQUIRED TO MEET HIS FINANCIAL DEMANDS.
- ① FOREIGN MINISTRY'S DIRECTOR AFRICAN AFFAIRS TOLD EMBOFF JUNE 4 THAT GOI BECOMING CONCERNED AT NIGERIAN HOSTILITY TOWARD ITALIAN NEGOTIATIONS WITH BIAFRA. HE SAID NIGERIAN AMBASSADOR IN ROME (EMBTEL 3281) AND FMG REPS IN LAGOS "MISINTERPRET" ITALIAN ACTIONS AND SEE THEM AS POLITICAL RATHER THAN AS PURELY HUMANITARIAN MOVES. MINISTRY REP ASKED

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PAGE 02: ROME 03377 051540Z

WHETHER EMBASSY LAGOS COULD SPEAK TO NIGERIANS, STRESS THAT ITALIANS ONLY CONCERNED WITH GETTING OIL WORKERS OUT OF BIAFRA AND ASSURE THEM THERE WERE NO POLICY IMPLICATIONS. BRITISH BEING ASKED DO SAME. EMBOFF SAID WOULD TRANSMIT REQUEST TO WASHINGTON.

4. COMMENT: SEEN FROM HERE, WISEST POSTURE FOR FMG VIS-A-VIS ITALY WOULD BE ONE OF STATESMANLIKE "UNDERSTANDING." BIAFRANS HAVE VIRTUALLY RUINED THE GOOD PUBLIC RELATIONS POSITION THEY CAREFULLY AND EXPENSIVELY CREATED FOR THEMSELVES HERE, AND FMG COULD NOT HAVE ASKED THEM TO PLAY THEIR CARDS DIFFERENTLY. WE NOTE FROM LAGOS 5019 THAT GOWEN SENT MESSAGE OF CONDOLENCE TO SARAGAT, SO FAR AS WE AWARE, MESSAGE NOT YET REPORTED ITALIAN PRESS. RETURN OF BODIES ON JUNE 6 WILL BE HIGHLY SENTIMENTAL OCCASION IN WHICH CONTINUED NIGERIAN CRITICISM WOULD BE DISCORDANT NOTE.

ACKLEY

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By	MW/ARA Date 10/5/05



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PAGE 01 LAGOS 05073 051834Z

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ACTION AF 18

INFO OCT 01, EUR 17, IO 13, UPW 01, UCF 05, SR 01, ORM 03, SCS 04, SCA 01,

CTAE 00, DODE 00, JPM 04, HI 02, INR 07, LI 03, NSAE 00, NSC 10, P 04,

RSC 01, SPI 02, SS 20, USIA 12, AID 08, RSR 01, 158 W
027601

R 051550Z JUN 69
FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7001
AMEMBASSY LISBON
INFO AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY GENEVA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LAGOS 5073

SUBJ: PORTUGUESE ROLE IN RELEASE FOREIGN OILMEN IN BIAFRA

REF: LISBON 908

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT ITEM CARRIED BY LAGOS RADIO JUNE 5
WITHOUT ATTRIBUTION ANY WIRE SERVICE OR OTHER NEWS
AGENCIES.

2. BEGIN TEXT. PORTUGAL HAS SUSPENDED ALL RELIEF FLIGHTS
FROM THE AFRICAN ISLAND OF SAO TOME INTO THE SMALL AREA OF
NIGERIAN TERRITORY STILL HELD BY THE REBELS. A REPORT FROM
LISBON SAID THE STEP WAS TAKEN BECAUSE THE REBEL LEADER,
ODUMEGWU OUKWU, HAS CONTINUED TO DEFEY THE APPEAL OF THE
PORTUGUESE GOVERNMENT FOR THE RELEASE OF THE 18 EIGHTEEN
FOREIGN OIL WORKERS. THE MEN, MOSTLY ITALIANS, WERE KIDNAPED
BY THE REBELS NEAR KWALE ABOUT THREE 3 WEEKS AGO AND SENTENCED
TO DEATH AFTER A MOCK TRIAL. END TEXT.

3. WHILE REFTEL SAYS FOREIGN OILMEN RELEASED BY BIAFRANS
"AT PORTUGUESE REQUEST", IT NOT CLEAR WHETHER OR NOT
PORTUGUESE IN FACT THREATENED SUSPEND FLIGHTS FROM SAO
TOME. APPRECIATE ANY INFO EMBASSY LISBON CAN SHED ON
NIGERIAN ALLEGATION THAT RELIEF FLIGHTS SUSPENDED.

DECON 6/5/70 OLSON

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By MVA Date 10/5/05



POL 27-7 BIAFRA-NIGERIA
Department of State **TELEGRAM**

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PAGE 01 LAGOS 05113 061803Z

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ACTION: AFI 18

INFO: OCT 01, EUR 17, ID 13, CIAE 00, DODE 00, JPM 04, H 02, INR 07, LI 03,

NSAE 00, NSC 10, P 04, RSC 01, SPI 02, SS 20, UCF 05, UPW 01, SR 01,

ORM 03, SCS 04, SCA 01, AID 28, RSR 01, 146 W

035771

R 061500Z JUN 69
FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7019
INFO AMEMBASSY ACCRA
AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY COTONOU
AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE
AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MONROVIA
AMEMBASSY NIAMEY
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE
USMISSION GENEVA
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
USIA WASHDC

UNCLAS LAGOS 5113

USIA FOR IBS

1. MOST PAPERS REPORT FMG ANNOUNCEMENT THAT IT HAS REJECTED SWISS NOTE PROTESTING ARREST OF DR. LINDT AND PARTY OF ICRC AT LAGOS AIRPORT ON MAY 28.

2. ON CASE OF OILMEN, REPORTS CARRIED ON LETTER FROM OJUKWU TO POPE URGING HIM TO BRING PRESSURE ON GOI TO DEAL DIRECTLY WITH REBELS. GOI ANNOUNCEMENT THAT UNDER SEC FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS HAD GONE TO ENCLAVE TO DISCUSS RELEASE OF OILMEN BUT REITERATING THAT ITALIANS DO NOT RECOGNIZE REBELS. POST FRONT PAGES FOUR GRISLY PICTURES OF MURDERED OILMEN. CAPTION STATES THAT "WHILE THIS IS THOROUGHLY GRUESOME"

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By MVA Date 10/5/05



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PAGE 02. LAGOS 05113 061803Z.

SIGHT...IT NOT INTENTION TO BRING HORROR-INSPIRING PICTURES TO READERS' BREAKFAST TABLE BUT RATHER TO SHOW WORLD HOW CALLOUS OUUKWU CAN BE, EVEN TO INNOCENT CIVILIANS OF NATIONS WHO HAVE ALWAYS SHOWN CONCERN FOR SUFFERING MASSES IN REBEL-HELD AREA." ONLY POST AND SKETCH PICK UP REPORT THAT OUUKWU GRANTED REPRIEVE TO EIGHTEEN STILL HELD AND THAT IVORIAN AND GABONESE REPS ASKED TO ARRANGE THEIR REPATRIATION. REPORTS ALSO CARRIED THAT ENI HAS AGREED TO PROVIDE NON-MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO REBELS BUT DEFINITELY WOULD NOT PROVIDE ARMS. NEW NIGERIAN EDITORIAL "OUUKWUS TREACHERY" REVIEWS "FLURRY OF DIPLOMATIC ACTIVITY" IN ATTEMPT TO OBTAIN RELEASE OF OILMEN BUT SAID MOST NOTICEABLE ASPECT WAS THAT OUUKWU INFLUENCED MOST "NOT BY POPE, GOI, OR CONOR CRUISE O'BRIEN BUT BY PORTUGUESE...AS SOON AS THEY THREATENED TO BAN FLIGHTS FROM LISBON AND SAO TOME, OUUKWU CAME TO SENSES AND HASTILY ANNOUNCED DECISION. NOW MEN ARE TO BE RELEASED, OUUKWU HOPING THAT IN WAKE OF RELIEF AT SHOW OF "MERCY" ANGER CAUSED BY LOSS OF ELEVEN MEN WILL BE WIPED AWAY". NIGERIAN HICOMER LONDON, BRIG. OGUNDIPES SPEECH BEFORE WEST AFRICA COMMITTEE IN LONDON GIVEN COVERAGE ALL PAPERS.

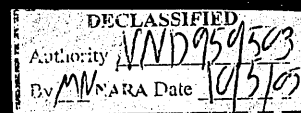
3. FMG COMWORKS FEMI OKUNNU REPORTED TO HAVE LEFT FOR LONDON ON "SECRET MISSION". HE STATED IN AIRPORT INTERVIEW VISIT WAS "TO SEE TO WELFARE OF NIGERIANS" IN ENGLAND. TIMES POINTS OUT THAT IN PAST OKUNNU TAKEN PART IN NEGOTIATIONS AT SEVERAL MEETINGS OUTSIDE NIGERIA WITH REBELS.

4. POST CARRIES TWO VERY XENOPHOBIC SIGNED ARTICLES ATTACKING ITALY, SWITZERLAND, SWEDEN, POPE, ICRC AND OTHER RELIEF AGENCIES. TRIBUNE FEATURES STORY FROM BRITISH PAPER GIVING DETAILS OF HOW PLANES OBTAINED FROM SWEDEN AND ARMED BY VON ROSEN. IN BELLICOSE COMPANION EDITORIAL, TRIBUNE CALLS FOR FMG TO INFORM GABON THAT NEXT TIME REBELS TAKE OFF FROM THERE (SIC) ON BOMBING RAIDS, LIBREVILLE AIRPORT WILL BE BOMBED IN RETALIATION. CALLS FOR INTENSIFIED SEARCH BY NAF TO IDENTIFY "SO-CALLED BIAFRAN BUSH WHERE COUNT BELIEVED STAYING AND REDUCE BUSH TO ASHES. FOR WE FIND IT DIFFICULT TO UNDERSTAND WHY NAF HAS NOT UP TILL NOW BEEN ABLE TO IDENTIFY THESE AIRCRAFT ON GROUND AND PUT THEM OUT OF ACTION". SAYS THAT IF NAF STRIKES SUCH A BLOW, IT WILL "TEACH OTHER MEDDLERS IT DOES NOT PAY TO MEDDLE IN WAR

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PAGE 03 LAGOS 05113 061803Z

WHICH NONE OF THEIR BUSINESS. SINCE, IF SUCH MEDDLERS LOSE LIVES IN FEDERAL AIR RAIDS THEY CANNOT REASONABLY BLAME ANYONE BUT THEMSELVES." WARNS THAT IF FMG DOES NOT SHOW OUTSIDERS IT SERIOUS WHEN IT TELLS THEM TO KEEP OUT OF WAR, MORE AND WORSE THINGS THAN VON ROSEN INCIDENT WILL COME. OLSON

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By	MNARA Date 10/5/05

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POL 27-7 BIAFRA-NIGERIA

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PAGE 01 LAGOS 05104 061720Z

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ACTION AF 18

INFO OCT 01, EUR 17, IO 13, CIAE 00, DODE 00, JPM 04, H 02, INR 07, L 03,

NSAE 00, NSC 10, P 04, RSC 01, SP 02, SS 20, USIA 12, AID 28, E 15,

COM 08, INT 06, UCF 05, UPW 01, RSR 01, 178 W

035533

P R 051200Z JUN 69
FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7014
AMEMBASSY ROME
INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN
AMEMBASSY BONN
USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY LONDON

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REF: ROME 3377: STATE 091135

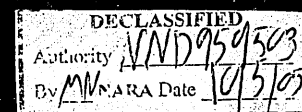
1. USED OCCASION OF VISIT TO EXTAFF COMMISSIONER ARIKPO ON OTHER MATTERS TO BROACH POSSIBLE PUBLIC RELATIONS DAMAGE TO FMG OF INCREASING FMG HOSTILITY TO GOI EFFORTS OBTAIN RELEASE OF 18 OILMEN. BOTH ARIKPO AND ENAHORO LAUNCHED INTO TIRADE AGAINST INEPTNESS OF FMG INFORMATION FACILITIES COMMENTING IN PARTICULAR ON AN NBC RADIO NEWSTALK ON SUBJECT. THEY SAID THEY HOPED THEY COULD DO SOMETHING TO DAMPEN CAMPAIGN AGAINST GOI. ENAHORO WHO ATTENDED FUNERAL OF TEN MURDERED ITALIAN OIL WORKERS THIS MORNING AS FMG REPRESENTATIVE WROTE OUT TELEGRAM ON SPOT REQUESTING USE OUR CHANNELS TO TRANSMIT MESSAGE TO NIGERIAN AMBASSADOR ROME INSTRUCTING HIM TO MEET PLANE WITH BODIES IN MILAN TONIGHT AND "PLAY DOWN ANY INDICATION OF FMG DISPLEASURE WITH GOI ATTEMPTS OBTAIN RELEASE OF OTHER 18."

① 2. FULL TEXT FMG TELEGRAM BEING SENT ROME FOR

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PAGE 02 LAGOS 05104 061720Z

TRANSMISSION TO AMBASSADOR GARBA.
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OLSON

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By	MMNARA Date 10/5/05

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POL 27-7 BIAFRA-NIGERIA
Department of State **TELEGRAM**

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PAGE 01 LAGOS 05019 041819Z

47
ACTION: AF 18

INFO OCT 01, EUR 17, IO 13, CIAE 00, DODE 00, JPM 04, HI 02, INR 07, L 03,
NSAE 00, NSC 10, P 04, RSC 01, SPI 02, SS 20, UCF 05, UPW 01, AID 28,
SR 01, ORM 03, SCSE 00, SCA 01, E 15, COM 08, INT 06, RSR 01, 171 W
018678

R 041455Z JUN 69
FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6972
INFO AMEMBASSY ACCRA
AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY COTONOU
AMEMBASSY LONDON
Y
AMEMBASSY MONROVIA
AMEMBASSY NIAMEY UNN
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE
USMISSION GENEVA
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
USIA WASHDC
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
AMEMBASSY ROME
STATE GRNC

UNCLAS LAGOS 5019

USIA FOR IBS

SUBJECT: NIGERIAN PRESS ROUND-UP, JUNE 4

1. ALL PAPERS REPORT ARRIVAL IN LAGOS OF BODIES OF SLAIN
OILMEN. AUTOPSIES PERFORMED IN PRESENCE OF ITALIAN AND
JORDANIAN DOCTORS. FUNERAL MASS BY ARCHBISHOP OF LAGOS
SCHEDULED FOR FRIDAY, BEFORE BODIES RETURNED TO HOME
COUNTRIES. GENERAL GOWON'S MESSAGE OF CONDOLENCE TO ITALIAN
PRESIDENT ALSO REPORTED. GOI REPORTEDLY APPEALED TO EMPEROR
OF ETHIOPIA TO USE GOOD OFFICES TO TRY TO OBTAIN RELEASE OF
EIGHTEEN OILMEN STILL HELD BY REBELS. ICRC APPEAL TO

(1)

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PAGE 02 LAGOS 05019 041819Z

OJUKWU FOR RELEASE ALSO REPORTED. REACTIONS FROM ITALIAN NEWSPAPERS CONDEMNING REBEL ACTIONS ALSO REPORTED. POST EDITORIAL ENTITLED "VATICAN AND MURDERED OILMEN" STATES NIGERIA MOURNS DEATH OF OILMEN ALONG WITH VATICAN AND ITALIANS AND SHARES THEIR CONCERN ABOUT FATE OF REMAINING EIGHTEEN. AGREES WITH REPORTS OF SARAGAT STATEMENT BLAMING MURDER ON "HOMICIDAL FURY". SAYS THAT SARAGAT LEFT OUT OF HIS STATEMENT FACT THAT "THIS HOMICIDAL FURY HAS BEEN FANNED AND NURTURED BY HIS GOVERNMENT AND VATICAN". ACCUSES ROME OF FOLLOWING POLICY OF SUPPORT FOR REBELS FROM BEGINNING AND DISAGREES WITH SARAGAT STATEMENT THAT ITALIANS HAVE ALWAYS SHOWN BROTHERLY SOLIDARITY WITH PEOPLE OF AFRICA RECALLING THAT POPE HAD BLESSED ITALIAN ARMS AND MUSSOLINI BEFORE HE "POUNCHED ON DEFENSELESS PEOPLE OF ABYSSINIA IN SEARCH OF IMAGINARY EMPIRE EVEN AS THEIR NIGERIAN PUPPET IS NOW DOING." RESTATES THAT WHILE NIGERIA MOURNS DEATH OF THESE ELEVEN MEN WHO MET FATE ONLY BY TRYING INNOCENTLY TO EARN THEIR LIVING, "WAY THEY MET THEIR END AT HANDS OF GANGSTERS ENCOURAGE AND SUPPORTED BY VATICAN AND ROME IS SYMBOLIC ACT...SUPPORT FOR GANG OF MISGUIDED REBELS ANYWHERE SIMPLY BECAUSE THEY LED BY MANIAC WHOSE FATHER WAS FINANCIAL PRINCE OF CHURCH OR OUT OF SHEER FUN OF WANTING AFRICA TO DISINTEGRATE, DOES VIOLENCE TO GOOD CONSCIENCE AND TO TENETS OF CHRISTIANITY".

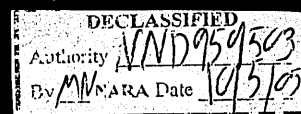
2. PROTEST AGAINST SWEDISH EMBASSY GETS BIG PLAY WITH MANY QUOTES FROM HEAD OF ULC ADEBOLA AND ALSO FROM NTUC HEAD GOODLUCK. SWEDISH FLAG BURNED AND LETTER OF PROTEST PRESENTED TO SWEDISH AMB RE VON ROSEN. (COMMENT: DEMONSTRATION CONSISTED OF SOME 75-100 PEOPLE DESPITE NEWS REFERENCES TO "DENSE CROWD".)

3. TIMES FRONT-PAGES SWEDISH NEWSPAPER REPORT THAT VON ROSEN ILL IN HIS "BIAFRAN HIDE-OUT".

4. NEW NIGERIAN REPORTS INTERVIEW WITH COMMANDER OF FIRST DIVISION, COL. SHUWA, DISCOUNTING IMPORTANCE OF REBEL AIR RAIDS AND STATING FMG HAS LOST NO TERRITORY AS RESULT. SHUWA ALSO STATED THAT FMG TROOPS EVEN MORE ANXIOUS THAN CIVILIANS TO END WAR BECAUSE THEY WERE ONES WHO HAD BEEN SEPARATED FROM FAMILIES FOR SO LONG. STATED THAT DELAY IN ENDING WAR DUE TO MANY REASONS, ONE OF WHICH WAS SHORTAGE OF VEHICLES FOR

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Department of State **TELEGRAM**

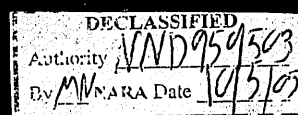
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PAGE 03 LAGOS 05019 041819Z

TRANSPORT OF FOOD AND AMMUNITION TO TROOPS IN WAR FRONT. ON
DEATH OF OILMEN, SHUWA POINTED OUT THAT REBELS HAD IN PAST
ROUNDED UP HUNDREDS OF PEOPLE OF RIVERS AND SOUTH-EASTERN ORIGIN
AND MURDERED THEM EN MASSE BEFORE LIBERATION OF THOSE AREAS,
SO HE WAS NOT SURPRISED AT THIS MOVE BY REBELS. OLSON

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POL 27-7 Biafra-nigeria
Department of State **TELEGRAM**

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ACTION AF 18

INFO OCT 01, EUR 17, IO 13, E 15, COM 08, INT 06, CIAE 00, DODE 00, JPM 04,

H 02, INR 07, L 03, NSAE 00, NSC 10, P 04, RSC 01, SP 02, SS 20, USIA 12,

AID 28, SCS 04, SCA 01, SR 01, ORM 03, UCF 05, RSR 01, UPW 01, 187 W
022396

R 041810Z JUN 69
FM AMEMBASSY LISBON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3435
INFO AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMCONSUL LUANDA
AMEMBASSY ROME
USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L NOFORN LISBON 907

SUBJ: GOP INTERCESSION FOR RELEASE ITALIAN OILMEN

1. EMBOFF LEARNED FROM ITALIAN EMBASSY JUNE 4 THAT ITALIAN GOVT HAD REQUESTED GOP TO INTERCEDE FOR RELEASE OF ITALIAN OILMEN NOW IN HANDS OF BIAFRANS.

2. FONOFF OFFICIAL TOLD EMBOFF GOP WILL RESPOND TO ITALIAN REQUEST IN EFFORT SAVE LIVES OF REMAINING ITALIAN OILMEN IN BIAFRA, IN ACCORDANCE WITH GOP'S "HUMANITARIAN POLICY" IN NIGERIAN CONFLICT. FONOFF OFFICIAL STATED THAT GOP CONVINCED THAT BIAFRA, WHICH HAD ESTABLISHED GOOD POSITION RE EUROPEAN PUBLIC OPINION, WAS NOW LOOKING TO EXTRICATE ITSELF FROM THIS POTENTIALLY DAMAGING SITUATION.

3. COMMENT: BIAFRA MAY WELL BE RECEPTIVE TO PORTUGUESE INTERCESSION. PORTUGUESE TERRITORY AND FACILITIES HAVE BEEN AVAILABLE FOR TRANSITING RELIEF SUPPLIES AND ARMS TO BIAFRA. GOP IN SPITE OF OFFICIAL NEUTRALITY IN NIGERIAN CONFLICT, HAS MADE NO SECRET OF ITS SYMPATHY FOR BIAFRAN CAUSE. WELLMAN

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By MW NARA Date 10/5/05



POL 27-7 Biafra-
Department of State *Nigeria*
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CONFIDENTIAL 213

PAGE 01 ROME 03335 041525Z

54
ACTION AF 18

INFO OCT 01, EUR 17, IO 13, CIAE 00, DODE 00, JPM 04, H 02, INR 07, L 03,
NSAE 00, NSC 10, P 04, RSC 01, SPI 02, SS 20, USIA 12, UCF 05, URW 01,
SCS 04, SCA 01, AID 28, EI 15, COM 08, INT 06, SRI 01, ORM 03, RSR 01,
/187 W

R 041512Z JUN 69
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1053
INFO USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY LAGOS

CONFIDENTIAL ROME 3335

SUBJECT: ITALIAN OIL WORKERS IN BIAFRA

REF: LAGOS 4943, STATE 89538

1. FERGUSON'S APPROACH TO MBANEFO AND DEPARTMENT'S BRIEFING OF ITALIAN EMBASSY COUNSELOR VERY HELPFUL. ON RECEIPT AUTHORITY CONVEY TO GOI, AMBASSADOR SENT PERSONAL CONFIDENTIAL LETTER WITH SUBSTANCE TO FONMIN NENNI (HOPEFULLY BEFORE HE REPORTED TO CLOSED SESSION OF CHAMBER FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE), AND EMBOFFI BRIEFED WORKING LEVEL.

2. WE BELIEVE FERGUSON'S DEMARCHE TO MBANEFO WILL HAVE GOOD EFFECT. BECAUSE OF REPORTED "DEATH SENTENCE," SUBJECT RECEIVING CONSIDERABLE EMOTIONAL PRESS ATTENTION, AND GOVERNMENT UNDER GREAT PRESSURE MAKE EVERY POSSIBLE EFFORT OBTAIN WORKERS' RELEASE.

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By MNA Date 10/5/05

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Department of State ^{Nigeria} TELEGRAM

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PAGE 01 ROME 03361 041731Z

47
ACTION EUR 22

INFO OCT 01, AF 12, IO 13, CIAE 00, DODE 00, JPM 04, H 02, INR 07, LI 03,

NSAE 00, NSC 10, P 04, RSC 01, SP 02, SS 20, USIA 12, UCF 05, AID 28,

EI 15, COM 08, INT 06, RSR 01, 176 W

018313

R 041648Z JUN 69
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1062
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
USMISSION EC BRUSSELS
USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY LAGOS

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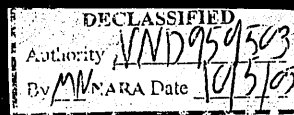
1. IN APPEARANCE BEFORE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE OF CHAMBER ON JUNE 4, FONMIN NENNI DESCRIBED THE MANY CHANNELS AND AGENCIES BEING USED BY GOI IN EFFORT OBTAIN RELEASE FROM BIAFRAN HANDS: 14 ITALIAN, 3 GERMAN AND 1 LEBANESE EMPLOYEE OF AGIP NIGERIA. NENNI SAID GROUP CONDEMNED TO DEATH LAST FRIDAY BY BIAFRAN MILITARY TRIBUNAL BUT, ACCORDING WORD RECEIVED FROM FRIENDLY COUNTRIES, SENTENCE SUSPENDED. RE MASSACRE OF REMAINING 11, NENNI SAID 8 KILLED INSIDE TRAILERS AND 2 (SIC) INSIDE CAMP.

2. NENNI SAID UNDER SECRETARY PEDINI AUTHORIZED GO TO BIAFRA FOR DIRECT TALKS AS SOON AS ASSURANCES RECEIVED THAT HE COULD SEE THOSE BEING HELD AND THAT THEIR RELEASE WOULD FOLLOW. (PRESS REPORTS PEDINI'S ASSISTANT MANCINI ALREADY THERE.) IN ADDITION IVORY COAST AND GABON, GERMANY, FRANCE AND PORTUGAL WERE ENDEAVORING PERSUADE BIAFRA TO RELEASE OIL WORKERS. (WE HAD EARLIER HEARD THAT ITALIANS HAD ASKED PORTUGUESE TO TRY TO IMPRESS ON BIAFRANS THAT THEY RUINING THEIR CASE IN EUROPE.)

3. NENNI ADDED THAT QUESTION WOULD BE DISCUSSED AT HAGUE

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Department of State **TELEGRAM**

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WEI MEETING BUT SAID THAT BECAUSE OF BIAFRAN BUSINESS, HE
WOULD NOT BE PRESENT. (WE PRESUME ITALY WILL BE REPRESENTED
BY PERMRP.)

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Authority	VND 959503
By	MW NARA Date 10/3/05

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OUTGOING TELEGRAM Department of State

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☐ CHARGE TO

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Classification

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3 JUN 69 23 42
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Origin ACTION: Amembassy ROME PRIORITY

Info: INFO: Amembassy LAGOS
USMission GENEVA

REF: a) Lagos 4943, b) State 83750

SUBJECT: AGIP Oil Crew Sentenced by Biafrans

1. Italian Embassy Counselor visited Department June 3 under instructions to inquire as to US information on fate of AGIP oil crew sentenced to death by Biafrans and to urge every feasible US help in varied efforts to save them. He was received by AF/W Country Director and Italian desk officer, who both expressed deep sympathy for plight of unfortunate prisoners.
2. Counselor was told that Ferguson at USG request had inquired in Biafra as to what might be done in behalf of prisoners. He was given content of conversation between Ferguson and Mbanefo (ref a) which was US action ^{supplementing} ~~which had supplemented~~ Italian Government efforts and those of others.
3. Counselor most appreciative of US and Ferguson actions and stated that he would so inform Rome.

GP-3

END

[ROGERS]

Drafted by: AF/W:RMMelbourne:emb 6/3/69 Tel. Ext. 2619 Telegraphic transmission and classification approved by: AF/W - Roy M. Melbourne

Clearances: EUR/AIS - Mr. Johnson (subs)
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Authority VMD 954503
By MW NARA Date 10/5/03

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POL 27-7 BIAFRA - NIGERIA

Department of State **TELEGRAM**

CONFIDENTIAL 679

PAGE 01 LIBREV 00569 040941Z

18
ACTION: AF 18

INFO: OCT 01, EUR 17, NEA 13, CIAE 00, DODE 00, UPM 04, H 02, INRI 07, LI 03,

NSAE 00, NSC 10, 04, RSC 01, SP 02, SS 20, UGIA 12, INT 06, UCF 05,

UPW 01, AID 28, RSR 01, IO 13, 168 W

015295

RI 091510Z JUN 69
FM AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2622
INFO AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

CONFIDENTIAL LIBREVILLE 569

SUBJECT: AGIP EMPLOYEES HELD BY BIAFRANS

1. GERMAN COLLEAGUES (PROTECT) TELL US: PRESIDENT BONGO
SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INFORMATION: MARTIN BONGO (PRESIDENT'S
SPEECH) AND MINISTER TRANSPORT PAUL MALEKOU TO BIAFRA
JUNE 2 WITH IVORY COAST MINISTER DEFENSE TO INSIST ON
RELEASE 13 ITALIAN, 3 GERMAN, AND 1 LEBANESE AGIP
EMPLOYEES HELD BY BIAFRANS. ACTION FOLLOWED DEMARCHES TO
BONGO BY GERMAN AMBASSADOR, AN ITALIAN SECRETARY OF STATE
WHO PRESENTLY LIBREVILLE AND GERMANS UNDERSTAND FRENCH
AMBASSADOR. ITALIAN REPRESENTATIVE TOLD GERMANS THAT
BONGO ANGRY WITH OUKWU STUBBORNNESS AND LINE HE HAS TAKEN
RE AGIP CREW AND THAT HOUPHUE BOIGNY SHARES BONGO'S ANGER.
ACCORDING GERMANS, ITALIAN REPRESENTATIVE TOLD BY BONGO
HE INFORMING OUKWU THAT, IF MEN NOT RELEASED WITHIN WEEK,
LIBREVILLE BIAFRA AIRLIFT WILL BE STOPPED UNTIL THEY FREED.

2. WHETHER OR NOT FRENCH TOOK INITIATIVE, BONGO UNDOUBTEDLY
CONCERTED WITH THEM ON PROBLEM. LIKELY THAT EVEN WITHOUT
ENCOURAGEMENT AND PRESSURE, BONGO WISHED ATTEMPT SECURE
RELEASE AGIP CREW. HAVING MADE MAJOR COMMITMENT TO BIAFRA
AND REPEATEDLY ASSERTED REASON STRICTLY HUMANITARIAN CONCERN
FOR VICIOUSLY AND UNJUSTLY OPPRESSED PEOPLE, BONGO (AND

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By MNARA Date 10/5/05



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FRENCH AS WELL HAS CAUSE BE DISTURBED BY OJUKWU HANDLING
AFFAIR IN WAY WHICH CAN ONLY DAMAGE BIAFRA REPUTATION AND
ERODE RATIONALE GABONESE BACKING FOR OJUKWU
BNAE

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Authority VND 954503
By MWA Date 10/5/05



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TELEGRAM

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22
ACTION: EUR 22

INFO: OCT 01, AF 12, IO 13, CIAE 00, DODE 00, JPM 04, H 02, INR 07, L 03,

NSAE 00, NSC 10, P 04, RSC 01, SPI 02, SS 20, USIA 12, UCF 05, E 15,

INT 06, COM 08, RSR 01, /148, W 006679

R 030600Z JUN 60
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1025
INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
USMISSION GENEVA
USMISSION USUN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ROME 3281

SUBJECT: MISSING ITALIANS IN NIGERIA

1. FOREIGN MINISTRY'S DIRECTOR OF AFRICAN AFFAIRS MAY 30 TOLD EMBOFF THAT 11 STILL MISSING OIL WORKERS DEFINITELY DEAD, AND WEEK-END PRESS REPORTS DISCOVERY OF GRAVES AT AGIP SITE AT KWALE.

2. ACCORDING MINISTRY REP, BIAFRANS INSISTING ON DIRECT TALKS WITH ITALY IN HOPE THAT SUCH "CONCESSION" COULD BE PARLAYED INTO CLAIM OF DE FACTO RECOGNITION. MINISTRY HAS NO OBJECTION DIRECT TALKS BUT CONSIDERS THAT THEY WOULD HAVE NO POLITICAL SIGNIFICANCE. MEANWHILE, CONTACTS ON SUBJECT TAKING PLACE THROUGH IVORY COAST. NIGERIAN AMBASSADOR IN ROME TOLD PRESS INTERVIEWER MAY 30 THAT RECOGNITION OF BIAFRA BY ITALY, EVEN IF ONLY DE FACTO, WOULD RESULT IN CLOSURE OF NIGERIAN EMBASSY, EXPULSION ITALIAN NATIONALS FROM NIGERIA AND NATIONALIZATION ITALIAN OIL HOLDINGS.

3. PAPERS JUNE 2 GAVE LARGE HEADLINES TO AFP REPORT THAT 18 TECHNICIANS CONSIDERED BY BIAFRA BEI "WARI CRIMINALS" SUBJECT TO EXECUTION.

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Authority VND 950/503
By MVA/ARA Date 10/3/05

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Department of State **TELEGRAM**

CONFIDENTIAL 605

PAGE 01 GENEVA 01710 021817Z

45
ACTION: AF 18

INFO: OCT 01, IO 13, CIAE 00, DODE 00, JPM 04, HI 02, INR 07, LI 03, NSAE 00

NSC 10, PI 04, RSC 01, SPI 02, SS 20, USIA 12, AID 28, SR 01, ORM 03,

SCS 04, SCA 01, UCF 05, UPW 01, EUR 17, ACDA 16, RSR 01, 174 W
002618

R 021735Z JUN 69
FM USMISSION GENEVA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1471
INFO AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY ROME

CONFIDENTIAL GENEVA 1710

SUBJECT: ITALIAN PRISONERS

1. ICRC OFFICIALS HERE PRIVATELY HAVE EXPRESSED BELIEF IN POSITION
DEATH PENALTY BY BIAFRAN MILITARY COURT IS TOUR DE FORCE PLAY
BY OUKWA AIMED AT FORCING U THANT'S PERSONAL INTERVENTION
AND THUS BRING ENTIRE CONFLICT INTO UN FORUM. MISSION, OF COURSE,
CANNOT COMMENT RE MERITS THIS SUPPOSITION.
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GENEVA - 1710
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Authority VND 959503
By MNA Date 10/5/05



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Department of State **TELEGRAM**

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ACTION: AF 18

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LI 03, NSAE 00, NSC 10, PI 04, RSC 01, SPI 02, SS 20, USIA 12, AID 28, AE 15,

COM 08, INT 06, SCSE 00, SCA 01, SR 01, ORM 03, UCF 05, RSRI 01, 195 W

125537

PI 311131Z MAY 69

FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6892

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY DARI ES SALAAM

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

CINCSRIKE/CINCMCAFSA

UNCLAS LAGOS 4878

SUBJECT: UNCONFIRMED REPORT ON MISSING OIL MEN

1. NIGERIAN OBSERVER (BENIN CITY, MID-WEST) REPORTS MAY 31 THAT FMG TROOPS RECAPTURED OKPAI AFTERNOON MAY 30 AND DISCOVERED "FIVE DECAYING BODIES AND SIX SHALLOW GRAVES" WHICH BELIEVED TO CONTAIN OIL MEN SLAIN BY REBELS. ALSO REPORTS PERSONAL EFFECTS IDENTIFIED AS BELONGING TO OIL MEN FOUND AT THIS SITE. QUOTES "EYE WITNESS" AS STATING REBEL ATTACK INITIALLY KILLED ONE GERMAN, ONE LEBANESE, ONE NIGERIAN, AND THEN ATTACKED CARAVAN IN WHICH ELEVEN OTHERS HIDING.

2. COMMENT: EMBASSY HAS NO REPORT OTHER THAN THIS ONE TO CONFIRM OR DENY.

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Department of State **TELEGRAM**

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19
ACTION: AF 18

INFO: OCT 01, EUR 17, IO 13, UCF 05, UPW 01, SCS 04, SCA 01, AID 28, CIAE 00,
DODE 00, JPM 04, H 02, INR 07, LI 03, NSAE 00, NSC 10, P 04, RSC 01, SR 02
SS: 20, USIA 12, E 15, SR 01, ORM 03, RSR 01, 173 W
096388

R 270810Z MAY 69
FM AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2588
INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN
AMEMBASSY COTONOU
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
USUN NEW YORK 127

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LIBREVILLE 525

SUBJECT: ITALIANS MISSING IN NIGERIA

REF: ABIDJAN 1395

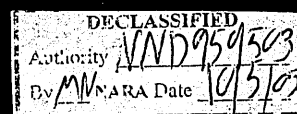
1. ACCORDING GABONESE PRESS AGENCY REPORT, PRESIDENT BONGO RECEIVED YESTERDAY, MAY 23, AGIP PRESIDENT EUGENIO CEPIS, WHO IS SEEKING RECOVERY ITALIAN OIL TECHNICIANS WHO DISAPPEARED IN AREA BIAFRAN-NIGERIAN FIGHTING. ACCORDING REPORT, BONGO TOLD SEVERAL MEMBERS OF ITALIAN CREW FOUND AND PRESENTLY WITH BIAFRAN UNITS WHILE SEARCH FOR OTHERS PROCEEDING. BONGO SAID TO HAVE REQUESTED OUKWU TO MAKE EVERY EFFORT COME TO AID OF TECHNICIANS.

2. ACCORDING FRENCH AMB DELAUNEY TODAY, 18 MEMBERS OIL CREW FOUND BUT 10 MISSING. DELAUNEY INDICATED HE SOMEWHAT CONCERNED RE THEIR FATE.
BANE

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POL 27-7 BIAFRA NIGERIA
Department of State **TELEGRAM**

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PAGE 01 LAGOS 04774 271617Z

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ACTION AF 18

INFO OCT 01, EUR 17, NEA 13, IO 13, CIAE 00, DODE 00, JPM 04, H 02, INR 07,

L 03, NSAE 00, NSC 10, P 04, RSC 01, SP 02, SS 20, USIA 12, UCF 05,

AID 28, E 15, COM 08, INT 06, RSR 01, /190 W

098714

P 271300Z MAY 69
FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6832
INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY DARI ES SALAAM
USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

UNCLAS LAGOS 4774

SUBJ MISSING OIL WORKERS IN NIGERIA

REF ROME 3171

1. WE CAN ADD LITTLE TO PRESS STORIES CIRCULATING IN LAST 24 HOURS OTHER THAN TO CONFIRM THAT GOVERNOR OF MID-WESTERN STATE HELD PRESS CONFERENCE MAY 26 AT WHICH IT WAS STATED THAT FIVE TO TEN OF WORKERS WERE KILLED OUTRIGHT IN INITIAL ATTACK.

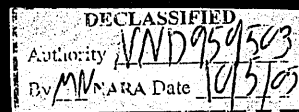
2. INFORMATION ALLEGEDLY PROVIDED BY NIGERIAN EYE-WITNESS WHOSE TAPED ACCOUNT OF INCIDENT WAS PLAYED TO NEWSMEN.

3. PRESS HERE HAS HIT ON FIGURE OF ELEVEN KILLED, BUT THIS COULD ARISE FROM REPORTS THAT EIGHTEEN OF ORIGINAL TWENTY-NINE NOW IN REBEL HANDS. OLSON

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POL 27-7 Biafra
Department of State **TELEGRAM**

CONFIDENTIAL 875

PAGE 01 ROME 03178 271454Z

47

ACTION: AF 18

INFO: OCT 01, EUR 17, IO 13, E 15, COM 08, INT 06, UCF 05, CIAE 00, DODE 00,

JPM 04, H 02, INR 07, LI 03, NSAE 00, NSC 10, P 04, RSC 01, SP 02, SS 20,

USIA 12, SCS 04, SCA 01, AID 28, UPW 01, RSR 01, /183 W
098138

R 271438Z MAY 69
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SE STATE WASH DC 969
INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN
USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
USMISSION USUN

CONFIDENTIAL LIROME 3178

SUBJECT: ITALIANS MISSING IN NIGERIA

1. WITH REQUEST THAT INFO BE KEPT CONFIDENTIAL, FOREIGN MINISTRY'S DIRECTOR OF AFRICAN AFFAIRS MAY 27 TOLD US IT APPARENTLY DEFINITE THAT AT LEAST 7 OF 11 STILL-MISSING AGIP OIL WORKERS ARE DEAD AND HOPES FOR REMAINING 4 ARE SLIM. UNCONFIRMED REPORTS OF THIS NATURE ARE NOW IN HEADLINES, BUT FOR TIME BEING MINISTRY WILL NOT PUBLICLY CONFIRM THEM.

2. NEGOTIATIONS FOR RELEASE 18 CONFIRMED PRISONERS ARE NOW CENTERED IN ABIDJAN AND ARE BEING CONDUCTED BY UNDER SECRETARY FOREIGN AFFAIRS PEDINI AND ENI REPS. MINISTRY REPI DENIED TO US THAT BIAFRANS ARE HOLDING OUT FOR POLITICAL OR MATERIAL RANSOM (THOUGH THIS WOULD NOT EXCLUDE POSSIBILITY THAT THEY TRYING EXTRACT ONE FROM AGIP RATHER THAN GOI).

3. AFRICAN DIRECTOR SAID PALMER'S ASSURANCES TO ORTONA (STATE 83750) THAT WE WOULD DO WHAT WE COULD WERE MUCH APPRECIATED.

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DECLASSIFIED
Authority VND 959503
By MVA Date 10/5/05



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Department of State **TELEGRAM**

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PAGE 01 ABIDJAN 01434 272053Z

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ACTION AF 18

INFO OCT 01, NEA 13, IO 13, EUR 17, CIAE 00, DODE 00, JPM 04, H 02, INR 07,

LI 03, NSAE 00, NSC 10, P 04, RSC 01, SP 02, SS 20, USIA 12, UCF 05,

UPW 01, SCS 04, SCA 01, SR 01, ORM 03, AID 28, PC 04, RSR 01, 175 W
100369

R 271550Z MAY 69
FMI AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4007
INFO AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY DARES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE
AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE
AMEMBASSY COTONOU
USMISSION GENEVA
USMISSION USUN
BT
UNCLAS ABIDJAN 1434

SUBJECT: ITALIANS MISSING IN NIGERIA

REF: ABIDJAN 1395 - POL 27-7 BIAFRA-NIGERIA
XR SOC 3 RED CROSS

ACCORDING AFP, ITALIAN UNDERSECRETARY OF STATE FOREIGN AFFAIRS,
MARIO PEDRINI ARRIVED ABIDJAN EVENING MAY 26, TO THANK HOUPHOUET

FOR HIS ROLE IN NEGOTIATIONS FOR LIBERATION ITALIAN ENI EMPLOYEES
IN BIAFRA. ACCORDING DESPATCH, NO RPT NO INFORMATION ON MISSING
ITALIANS RECEIVED IN ABIDJAN MONDAY, AND IT IS ONLY KNOWN THAT
18 OF TECHNICANS NOW UNDER CONTROL BIAFRAN POLICE. A DIRECTOR
OF ENI, CARLO MASSIMILIANO GRITTI, ASSISTANT TO PRESIDENT
CEFIS, IS, ACCORDING AFP ALSO IN ABIDJAN, SEEKING DIRECT CONTACTS
WITH BIAFRAN LEADERS.
MORGAN

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Authority VND 954503
By MWA Date 10/5/05

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Department of State **TELEGRAM**

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ACTION: AF: 18

INFO: OCT 01, EUR: 17, IO: 13, UCF: 05, UPW: 01, CIAE: 00, DODE: 00, JPM: 04, H: 02,

INR: 07, L: 03, NSAE: 00, NSC: 10, P: 04, RSC: 01, SP: 02, SS: 20, USIA: 12,

SCA: 01, SCS: 04, SR: 01, ORM: 03, AID: 28, E: 15, COM: 08, INT: 06, RSR: 01,

/187 W

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R: 260830Z MAY 69
FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS
TO USMISSION: GENEVA
INFO SECSTATE: WASHDC 6788
AMEMBASSY ROME

C O N F I D E N T I A L LAGOS 4699

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y FOR MRN ONLY. 4699 VICE 4693.

REF: GENEVA 1631 LAGOS 4691

1. FERGUSON AND CHARGE: SAW AMB LINDT SATURDAY MAY 24
(SEPTEL). PLEASE INFORM NAVILLE OF FERGUSON LINDT
CONVERSATION AND LINDT'S PROPOSED ACTIONS SET FORTH IN
SEPTEL.

2. NAVILLE ALSO TO BE INFORMED THAT HIS INSTRUCTIONS
RE REPORTING WERE TRANSMITTED TO LINDT BY FERGUSON IN
PRIVATE CONVERSATIONS.

GP-3.

OLSON.

CONFIDENTIAL

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0085

DECLASSIFIED
Authority: VND 950503
By: MN NARA Date: 10/5/05

(21)



PO L 27-7 Biafra-Nigeria
Department of State **TELEGRAM**

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PAGE 01 ROME 03171 261750Z

46.

ACTION: EUR 22

INFO: OCT 01, AF 12, NEA 13, IO 13, UCF 05, CIAE 00, DODE 00, JPM 04, H 02,

INR 07, L 03, NSAE 00, NSC 10, PI 04, RSC 01, SP 02, SS 20, USIA 12,

AID 28, E 15, UPW 01, NIC 01, ACDA 16, RSR 01, /193 W
092077

R 261710Z MAY 69
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 966
INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
USUN NEW YORK 518
AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

UNCLAS ROME 3171

SUBJECT: ITALIANS MISSING IN NIGERIA

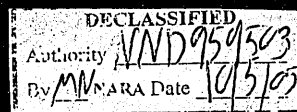
ACCORDING WEEK-END PRESS, BIAFRAN AUTHORITIES HAVE OFFICIALLY
ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THEY HOLDING 18 OF 29 MISSING OIL
TECHNICIANS. TWO OF THEM SAID BE SLIGHTLY WOUNDED, REMAINDER
APPARENTLY STILL UNACCOUNTED FOR. IN MESSAGE TO RESIDENT
AFRICAN AMBASSADORS IN HONOR OF AFRICA DAY, PRESIDENT
SARAGAT PRAISED AFRICAN PROGRESS BUT NOTED THAT UNKNOWN
FATE OF OIL WORKERS CAUSING SADNESS IN ITALY. PRESS ALSO
REPORTED BIAFRAN RADIO BROADCAST STATING THAT PRISONERS WOULD
BE RELEASED ONLY IN EXCHANGE FOR POLITICAL COMPENSATION,
INCLUDING RECOGNITION, OR ARMS.

ACKLEY

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0086



OUTGOING TELEGRAM Department of State

INDICATE: ☐ COLLECT
☐ CHARGE TO

CONFIDENTIAL
Classification

Origin
Info:

ACTION: Amembassy ROME
USMission GENEVA

INFO: Amembassy LAGOS

SUBJECT: AGIP Oil Crew Captured by Biafrans

1. Italian Ambassador phoned Assistant Secretary Palmer and Emboff visited Department to read telegram from Rome requesting US help, through whatever humanitarian channels may be available to it, in obtaining information as to welfare of 29 members of AGIP oil rig crew taken by Biafrans. Telegram also asked that US give what help might be feasible in seeking their release.
2. Emboff was told that we would direct our inquiries through Joint Church Aid organization in New York and ICRC Geneva, while he recognized that GOI had made similar inquiries through ICRC and ~~XXXXXX~~ Caritas. Informal Biafran representative in New York also would be privately approached for information. However, Emboff informed US leverage was small.
3. Action Geneva. You can indicate to ICRC our interest in their activities in behalf captured personnel. Appreciate your following developments in this case.

GP-3

END

RICHARDSON

Drafted by: AF/W:RMMelbourne:emb 5/23/69 Tel. Ext. 2619 Telegraphic transmission and classification approved by: AF/W - Roy M. Melbourne

Clearances:

AF - Mr. Palmer (subs)

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Classification

FORM 8-65 DS-322

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DECLASSIFIED
Authority VMD 954503
By MNA Date 10/5/05

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POL 27-7 BIAFRA-NIGERIA

Department of State

TELEGRAM

5-24-69
1691
4691

CONFIDENTIAL 557

PAGE 01 LAGOS 04691 251014Z

11
ACTION AF 18

INFO OCT 01, EUR 17, IO 13, UCF 05, UPW 01, CIAE 00, DODE 00, JPM 04, H 02,
INR 07, LI 03, NSAE 00, NSC 10, PI 04, RSC 01, SP 02, SS 20, SSO 00, CCO 00,
NSCE 00, SCA 01, SCS 04, SR 01, ORM 03, AID 28, E 15, COM 08, INT 06,
RSR 01 / 175 W

086887

P 241731Z MAY 69
FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6784
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY ROME
USMISSION GENEVA

CONFIDENTIAL LAGOS 4691

SUBJECT: MISSING OIL COMPANY CREW

1. IN CONVERSATION WITH FERGUSON AND CHARGE THIS AFTERNOON LINDT DESCRIBED HIS EFFORTS OBTAIN INFORMATION ON AND RELEASE OIL WORKERS CAPTURED BY REBEL FORCES. DURING FIRST TRIP TO QTE BIAFRA UNQTE HE SAW COOKEY AND URGED NAMES AND CONDITION WORKERS BE RELEASED. HE HAD IMPRESSION THIS WOULD BE DONE. WAS EXPLAINED TO HIM THEN THAT INVESTIGATION NOT COMPLETED BUT NO REPEAT NO DEATHS. QTE BIAFRANS UNQTE HE SAID, HAD NOT REPEAT NOT KNOWN ABOUT INCIDENT UNTIL RECEIVED LIST OF NAMES FROM ICRC.

2. WHEN NO FURTHER WOULD DEVELOPED LINDT RETURNED THREE NIGHTS AGO AND TOLD COOKEY QTE BIAFRAN UNQTE FAILURE ACT INCOMPREHENSIBLE HE SAW NO REASON ROT TO PUBLISH NAMES AND POINTED OUT QTE BIAFRA UNQTE SILENCE DAMAGING TO QTE BIAFRAN UNQTE REPUTATION. COOKEY REPLIED INVESTGA- TION MORE DIFFICULT THAN ANTICIPATED AND WOULD GIVE LINDT NO FURTHER INFOR AT TIME. LINDT UNABLE SEE OUUKWU WHO PREOCCUPIED WHOLLY WITH MILITARY OPERATION, THEN SAW MBANEFO WHO MENTIONED NUMBER MEN AS QTE EIGHTEEN UNQTE, SAID COULD SAY NO MORE BUT PROMISED TAKEN MATTER UP WITH

9

CONFIDENTIAL

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Authority VND 950503
By MNA Date 10/5/05



Department of State **TELEGRAM**

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 LAGOS 04691 251014Z

OJUKWU. LINDT ALSO SAW AKPAN WHOSE ATTITUDE DESCRIBED AS NASTY BUT WHO PROMISED WORD LATER AND ASKED LINDT HOLD UP DEPARTURE. AT 11 PM MAY 22 HE TOLD LINDT NO REPEAT NO NEWS YET.

3. YESTERDAY LINDT HAD MESSAGE FROM JAGGI EXPRESSING HOPE HE HAVE CLEARANCE FOR AGIP'S EXECUTIVES ENTER QTE BIAFRA UNQTE BUT LINDT HAS NO REPEAT NO CONFIRMATION AS YET THAT THIS WORKED OUT.

4. LINDT REPORTS HOUPHET HAS INTERVENED AND REPORTEDLY HAD LETTER FROM OJUKWU SAYING THERE EIGHTEEN PERSONS SOME WOUNDED BUT ALL GETTING BEST OF TREATMENT AT SMALL TOWN NORTHEAST OF ORLU. ACCORDING LINDT FATER BYRNE ALSO ATTEMPTED SEE OJUKWU BUT FAILED AND UNABLE GET AGREEMENT TO VISIT PRISONERS OR LEARN THEIR NAMES. HE WAS TOLD HOWEVER THERE SOON BE COMMUNIQUE.

5. LINDT CONCLUDES COOKEY AND MBANEFO FAVOR PUBLISHING NAMES PRISONERS AND THEY DENY VIGOROUSLY THAT QTE BIAFRA UNQTE HAS FINANCIAL DEAL IN MIND WITH RESPECT TO PRISONERS. HE DID HAVE QTE FEELING UNQTE THAT QTE BIAFRAN UNQTE CMDR QTE MAY HAVE ACTED WITHOUT ORDERS UNQTE. ALSO HE WAS TOLD THERE SOME FIGHTING IN AREA WHERE PRISONERS TAKEN WITH POSSIBLE IMPLICATION REBELS ATTEMPTING SHIFT ONUS TO FEDERAL TROOPS.

6. LINDT PLANS STAY IN LAGOS THROUGHT SUNDAY AND HOPEFUL AGIP EXECUTIVES CAN ENTER QTE BIAFRA UNQTE. IF THEY UNABLE DO SO HE PLANS RETURN PURSUE EFFORTS.

7. COMMENT: QTE BIAFRANS UNQTE APPARENT HESITANCY IN REPORTING CONDITION PRISONERS LEADS INCREASINGLY TO CONCLUSION THAT SOME WERE KILLED UNDER CIRCUMSTANCES DIFFICULT FOR THEM TO EXPLAIN.

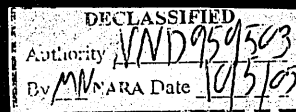
GP-3.

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POL 27-7 Biafra Nigeria
Department of State **TELEGRAM**

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PAGE 01 ROME 03118 221847Z

92
ACTION: AF 18

INFO: OCT 01, EUR 17, NEA 13, IO 13, CIAE 00, DODE 00, JPM 04, HI 02, INR 07,

LI 03, NSAE 00, NSC 10, PI 04, RSC 01, SPI 02, SS 20, USIA 12, AID 28,

UCF 05, UPW 01, PC 04, RSR 01, 166 W

069557

RI 221800Z MAY 69
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 942
INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY DARI ES SALAAM
USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
USMISSION USUN
AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE
AMEMBASSY LISBON

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ROME 3118

SUBJECT: ITALIANS MISSING IN NIGERIA

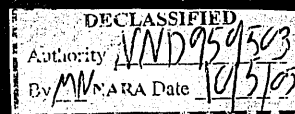
1. ENI PERSONNEL DIRECTOR TOLD USIS LOCAL EMPLOYEE MAY 22 THAT 12 OF 29 MISSING TECHNICIANS WERE KILLED WHEN OIL CAMP OVERRUN. FOREIGN MINISTRY, HOWEVER, UNABLE CONFIRM STORY. DIRECTOR AFRICAN AFFAIRS TOLD EMBOFFI REPORT WAS BASED ON ENI PRESIDENT CAFIS' PRESS STATEMENT IN LAGOS THAT BIAFRANS HOLDING 18 PRISONERS, IMPLYING THAT 11 WERE STILL "MISSING." MINISTRY HAS NO SEPARATE INFO, AND NUMERICAL DISCREPANCY UNEXPLAINED.

2. PERSONNEL DIRECTOR ALSO SAID THAT BIAFRANS WANTED TRADE PRISONERS FOR AUTOMATIC WEAPONS, WITH TRADE TO BE ARRANGED THROUGH COLONEL SKORZENY. ENI, HOWEVER, SAID BE RELUCTANT DEAL WITH SKORZENY AND PROPOSING SWISS OR PORTUGUESE BANKERS. CAFIS SAID BE THREATENING ATTACK BIAFRA IN PRESS IF DEAL NOT QUICKLY

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Department of State **TELEGRAM**

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PAGE 02 ROME 03118 221847Z

CONSUMATED.

3. FOREIGN MINISTRY TELLS US IT STILL HAS NO FIRST-HAND WORD OF TECHNICIANS OR DIRECT CONTACT WITH BIAFRA. VARIOUS EMISSARIES TO BIAFRA SO FAR DETERRED BY FMG'S BOMBING OF ULI AIRPORT.

4. THOUGH SITUATION FAR FROM CLEAR, IT TAKING OMINOUS TREND. IF BIAFRANS IN CONTROL OF IT, THEY MAKING BIG MISTAKE IN HERTOFORE SYMPATHETIC ITALY. STORY CONTINUES BE PAGE ONE PRESS ITEM, EVEN WITHOUT SENSATIONAL ASPECTS.

ACKLEY

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Authority VND 959503
By MWA Date 10/5/05

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POL 27-7 BIAFRA-NIGERIA
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Department of State **TELEGRAM**

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PAGE 01 ABIDUA 01395 221924Z

84

ACTION AF 18

INFO OCT 01, EUR 17, NEA 13, IO 13, UPW 01, SCA 01, UCF 05, AID 28, SR 01,

ORM 03, EI 15, SCSE 00, CIAE 00, DODE 00, JPM 04, H 02, INR 07, LI 03,

NSAE 00, NSC 10, P 04, RSC 01, SPI 02, SS 20, USIA 12, RSR 01, 182 W
069875

R 221720Z MAY 69
FM AMEMBASSY ABIDUAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3986
INFO AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE
AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE
AMEMBASSY COTONOU
USMISSION GENEVA
USMISSION USUN

UNCLAS ABIDUAN 1395

SUBJECT: ITALIANS MISSING IN NIGERIA

REF: ROME 3072 - POL 27-7 BIAFRA-NIGERIA

ACCORDING AFP, ENI PRESIDENT CEFIS WAS RECEIVED BY PRESIDENT HOUPHOUET IN ABIDUAN AFTERNOON MAY 21 TO DISCUSS ENI TECHNICIANS MISSING IN NIGERIA. ACCORDING AFP, IVORY COAST BELIEVED TO HAVE INTERVENED WITH BIAFRAN LEADERS, AT ITALIAN REQUEST, TO SEEK INFORMATION ON MISSING MEN. IDENTICAL DEMARCHES SUPPOSEDLY MADE AT ITALIAN REQUEST BY ZAMBIA, TANZANIA, GABON. CEFIS LEFT ABIDUAN AFTER INTERVIEW FOR COTONOU, BY PRIVATE PLANE, TO SEEK NEW MEETING DR. LINDT OF ICRC MORGAN.

(2)

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Authority VND 959503
By MVA Date 10/5/05

Abidjan 1395
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POL 27-9 BIAFRA-NIGERIA
XK POL 27 BIAFRA-NIGERIA
Department of State **TELEGRAM**

XK POL 27-7 BIAFRA-NIGERIA

SECRET 12R

PAGE 01 COTONO 00547 211508Z

50
ACTION SS 70

INFO OCT 01, CIAE 00, SSO 00, /071 W

059938

R 211400Z MAY 69
FM AMEMBASSY COTONOU
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2122

SECRET COTONOU 547

LINDIS

FOR FERGUSON FROM DAWSON

SUBJECT: RSM

1. SOME ARMS PLANES PROBABLY LANDING UGA, "NEW" AIRSTRIP NORTH OF ULI. THIS AIRSTRIP APPROXIMATELY SAME LENGTH ULI AND PROBABLY WIDENED ROAD AS IS ULI. NO ICRC AIRCRAFT LANDING THERE. ARMS FLIGHTS ULI RAN ABOUT FIVE PER NIGHT, BUT SOME WERE DC-4'S WITH 7 TON LOAD CAPACITY. (ABOVE FROM ICRC SOURCE)
2. ULI AND UGA BOMBED NIGHTS OF 19TH AND 20TH. BOMBING BECOMING MORE ACCURATE, NONE MORE THAN 100 METERS FROM STRIP. THERE WERE ALSO DAYLIGHT MIG ATTACKS ON UGA.
3. NIGHT OF MAY 20 FIRST WAVE DID NOT RETURN UNTIL 0130 LOCAL DUE HOLDING BECAUSE OF BOMBING ATTACK. THIS SO FAR OFF SCHEDULE THAT THREE FLIGHTS IMPOSSIBLE.
4. IN VERY HURRIED CURBSIDE CHAT WITH DAWSON ON 20TH LINDT (ICRC) SAID COOKEY (BIAFRA) EXPECTED TALK TO DAWSON ABOUT VENUE OF TALKS. LINDT DEPARTED FOR BIAFRA NIGHT OF 20TH TO TALK ABOUT CAPTURED AGIP PERSONNEL. RUMOR ABOUT AGIP PERSONNEL IS THAT 20 WERE CAPTURED AND 18 ARE STILL ALIVE. BIAFRANS TOLD LINDT SATURDAY THAT THEY WOULD MAKE AN ANNOUNCEMENT ABOUT AGIP EMPLOYEES BY MONDAY, BUT NONE HAS BEEN MADE.
5. MILITARY SITUATION! APPEARS BIAFRANS APPROXIMATELY 20

SECRET

26

Cotonou 547
5-21-69

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Authority VMD959503
By MNA Date 01/5/05



POL 27-7 BIAFRA - NIGERIA
XRPOL 7 NIGERIA
Department of State **TELEGRAM**

*Lagos 4551
5-21-69*

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PAGE 01 LAGOS 04551 220937Z

18:
ACTION AF 18:

INFO OCT 01, EUR 17, IO 13, CIAE 00, DODE 00, JPM 04, H 02, INR 07, L 03,

NSAE 00, NSC 10, P 04, RSC 01, SPI 02, SS 20, AID 28, INT 06, RSR 01,

/137 W

0661451

R 211640Z MAY 69
FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6703
INFO AMEMBASSY ACCRA
AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY COTONOU
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MONROVIA
AMEMBASSY NIAMEY
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE
AMEMBASSY ROME
USMISSION GENEVA
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
USIA WASHDC

UNCLAS LAGOS 4551

USIA FOR IBS:

SUBJECT: NIGERIAN PRESS ROUNDUP MAY 21

(2)

1. (CAPTURED ITALIAN OILMEN) • (DAILY TIMES) HEADLINES: UNSYG
THANT PROMISE TO HELP SECURE RELEASE OF OILMEN HELD BY REBELS.
STORY CITES ITALIAN FOREIGN MINISTRY STATEMENT CONCERNING
APPROACH TO UN BY ITALIAN GOVERNMENT. ALSO NOTES ROLE OF
CARITAS PRIEST, FATHER BYRNE, IN TRYING OBTAIN STATEMENT
FROM REBELS ON WELFARE AND WHEREABOUTS CAPTURED OILMEN.
(SKETCH) HAS FRONT-PAGE STORY PURPORTING DESCRIBE HOW OILMEN
WERE TAKEN BY REBELS. STORY BASED ON INFO FROM CAPTURED
BIAFRANS IN MIDWEST. ACCORDING (SKETCH) OILMEN TAKEN TO REBEL
BRIGADE HEADQUARTERS NEAR NNEWI. AFTER SPECULATING, AS DID
(TIMES), THAT OILMEN BEING HELD FOR SOME KIND OF RANSOM, STORY

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Authority VND 959503
By MN/ARA Date 10/5/05



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PAGE 02 LAGOS 04551 220937Z

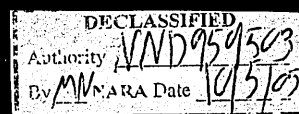
RECORDS ALLEGED FIGHT AMONG REBELS AS TO WHETHER ROB AND
RETURN OILMEN TO MIDWEST OR HOLD THEM AS "VERY GOOD FOREIGN
EXCHANGE EARNER FOR OJUKWUI REGIME".

2. (CHIEF JUSTICE TO VISIT U.S.) (MORNING POST) REPORTED CHIEF
JUSTICE ADEMOLA LEFT NIGERIA MAY 20 FOR NEW YORK TO ATTEND
MEETING OF INTERNATIONAL CIVIL SERVICE ADVISORY BOARD WHICH
SCHEDULED LAST TWO WEEKS. CHIEF JUSTICE WILL LATER
TOUR PARTS OF THE U.S. AND SWITZERLAND BEFORE RETURNING
TO NIGERIA ON JULY 7.

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POL 27-7 Biafra-Nigeria
Department of State **TELEGRAM**

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PAGE 01 ROME 03072 211650Z

45
ACTION AF 18

INFO OCT 01, EUR 17, NEA 13, ID 13, SCS 04, SCA 01, URW 01, UCF 05, AID 28

SR 01, ORMI 03, CIAE 00, DODEI 00, JPM 04, HI 02, INR 07, L 03, NSAI 00,

NSC 10, P 04, RSC 01, SP 02, SS 20, USIA 12, E 15, RSR 01, 186, W
060618

R 211600Z MAY 69
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 919
INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
USUN NEW YORK 515
AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

UNCLAS ROME 3072

SUBJECT: ITALIANS MISSING IN NIGERIA

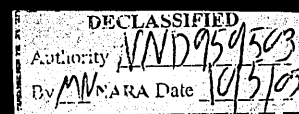
1. DURING THE PAST 24 HOURS ITALIANS HAVE REDOUBLED EFFORTS EXTRICATE 29 MOSTLY ITALIAN OIL WORKERS FROM BIAFRA. AT SAME TIME BIAFRAN FOREIGN COMMERCE "MINISTER" CONFIRMED TO PRESS IN ROME THAT PRISONERS IN HANDS BIAFRAN FORCES.

2. MAY 20 PRIME MINISTER RUMOR SENT MESSAGE TO ICRC PRESIDENT NAVILLE EXPRESSING CONCERN AT CONTINUED INABILITY HAVE DIRECT CONTACT WITH MISSING TECHNICIANS. RUMOR URGED NAVILLE ACT IN ALL POSSIBLE WAYS TO OBTAIN INFORMATION, AND TO CONTACT AND EVACUATE TECHNICIANS. MESSAGE OFFERED PUT ITALIAN FACILITIES AT ICRC DISPOSAL.

3. SAME DAY FOREIGN MINISTER NENNI INSTRUCTED ITALIAN PERMREP VINCI TO SEEK UNSYG INTERVENTION. REPORTEDLY, UN THANT AGREED TAKE PERSONAL INTEREST IN PROBLEM. ITALIAN

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Department of State **TELEGRAM**

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PAGE 02 ROME 03072 211650Z

APPEAL ALSO BEING MADE TO OAU IN ADDIS.

4. MEANWHILE ENI PRESIDENT CEFIS ARRIVED LAGOS ACCOMPANIED BY ITALIAN AMBASSADOR MANFREDI. PRESS COMMENTS THAT CEFIS' ARRIVAL INDICATES NEGOTIATIONS, PERHAPS BARGAINING, UNDER WAY.

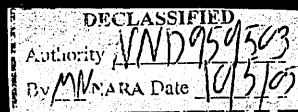
5. BIAFRAN "MINISTER" FOR FOREIGN COMMERCE, ARTHUR MBANEFO, RETURNED ROME MAY 20 IN COMPANY CARITAS SYG MONSIGNOR BAYER. MBANEFO TOLD PRESS BIAFRAN GOVERNMENT HAD LEARNED OF CAPTURE OF ITALIANS ONLY ON MAY 15 FROM VOA AND BBC. IMMEDIATELY AFTERWARDS MESSAGES ARRIVED FROM VATICAN AND FROM DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATIVES. FOLLOWING INQUIRIES IN OPERATIONAL ZONE, BIAFRAN GOVERNMENT CONFIRMED CAPTURE OF TECHNICIANS AND ORDERED THEM BROUGHT OUT OF OPERATIONAL ZONE. TODAY, HE SAID, ALL OR MOST IN BIAFRAN TERRITORY. HE SAID COMMUNIQUE NOT YET POSSIBLE BECAUSE IDENTITY OF PRISONERS NOT YET CONFIRMED. IT NECESSARY BE CERTAIN THAT THEY WORKING FOR A BUSINESS FIRM AND NOT AS MERCENARIES FOR NIGERIA BEFORE RELEASE COULD BE DISCUSSED.

6. ASKED ABOUT ITALIAN DESIRE FOR TRUCE IN ORDER EVACUATE TECHNICIANS, MBANEFO SAID BIAFRA FAVORED GENERAL TRUCE DURING WHICH INTERNATIONAL OBSERVERS COULD BE SENT TO INVESTIGATE WHOLE SITUATION. MBANEFO SAID BIAFRA MOTIVATED BY GOOD WILL AS SHOWN BY ITS RECEPTIVITY TO FOREIGN INTERVENTIONS ON BEHALF MISSING TECHNICIANS. PRESS SAYS HE DENIED THAT RANSOM WAS DESIRED.

7. MBANEFO AND BAYER LEFT ROME MAY 20 FOR SAO TOME. ACKLEY

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POL 27-7 BIAFRA-NIGERIA
Department of State **TELEGRAM**

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE 853

PAGE 01 LAGOS 04415 191222Z

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ACTION AF 18

INFO OCT 01, IO 13, SCS 04, SCA 01, AID 28, L 03, H 02, CIAE 00, DODE 00,

INR 07, NSAE 00, P 04, RSC 01, USIA 12, E 15, INT 06, UCF 05, UPW 01,

RSR 01, 122 W

042834

R 191055Z MAY 69
FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6630
INFO USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY ROME

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LAGOS 4415

SUBJECT: CAPTURED OIL MEN

1. HOCHE, ICRC, CONFIRMED TO US LOCAL PRESS REPORTS THAT
LINDT ASSURED THAT MISSING OIL MEN SAFE. ACCORDING HOCHE,
LINDT HAS GONE TO "BIAFRA" TO SECURE THEIR RELEASE. HE HAD
SENT LIST OF 29 MISSING PERSONS TO REBELS AND RECEIVED CON-
FIRMATION THAT ALL IN GOOD HEALTH. HOPEFULLY THIS WILL PROVE
TO BE THE CASE.

EXEMPT. OLSON

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Authority VND 954503
By MVA Date 10/5/05



POL 27-7 Biafra-Nigeria
Department of State

TELEGRAM

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PAGE 01 ROME 03023 191854Z

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ACTION EUR 22

INFO OCT 01, AF 12, NEA 13, IO 13, CIAE 00, DODE 00, JPM 04, H 02, INR 02, 3-19-69 30033

LI 03, NSAE 00, NSC 10, P 04, RSC 01, SP 02, SS 20, USIA 12, UCF 05, 10033

UPW 01, AID 28, E 15, COM 08, INT 06, RSR 01, 190 W 045323

R 191706Z MAY 69
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 897
INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
USMISSION USUN
AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

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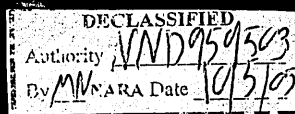
SUBJECT: ITALIANS MISSING IN NIGERIA

1. ITALIAN PRESS REPORTS MISSING OIL TECHNICIANS IN GOOD CONDITION, THOUGH STILL IN BIAFRAN HANDS. ACCORDING PRESS, RELEASE IMMINENT.
2. FOREIGN MINISTRY TELLS US, HOWEVER, THAT IT STILL NOT CLEAR WHETHER TECHNICIANS IN HANDS REGULAR OR IRREGULAR FORCES. (IN LATTER EVENT, THERE POSSIBILITY CAPTORS HOPING OBTAIN RANSOM.) MINISTRY WAS INFORMED OVER WEEKEND THAT BIAFRAN AUTHORITIES WOULD ISSUE STATEMENT ON PRISONERS AT 1600 HOURS ON SUNDAY, MAY 18. FACT THAT STATEMENT WAS NOT ISSUED IS CAUSE FOR SOME UNEASINESS IN FOREIGN MINISTRY.

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21

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Nigeria
07
15 MAY 69 13 54Z
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INDICATE: ☐ COLLECT
☐ CHARGE TO

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Origin	ACTION: Amembassy ROME
Info	INFO : Amembassy ABIDJAN
	" BEIRUT
	" DAR ES SALAAM
	" LAGOS
	" LONDON
	" LUSAKA
	" YAOUNDE
	USMission GENEVA
	USUN

Subj: Italians Missing in Nigeria

Ref: Rome 2896

In light close contacts between GOI and ICRC, Caritas and Biafran reps abroad and efforts already underway, we doubt that USG could be of significant assistance in obtaining release of Italian technicians believed in hands Biafran forces. However, we should be glad to do whatever we appropriately can to be helpful.

POL 27-7 Biafra-Nigeria

216910

RICHARDSON

10

Drafted by:	AF/W:RPSmith:ba 5/14/69	Tel. Ext.	6402	Telegraphic transmission and classification approved by: AF/W - Roy Melbourne
Clearances:				

EUR/AIS-Mr. Folger (sub)

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FORM 8-65 DS-322

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By MNARA Date 10/5/05



POL 27-7 Biafra-Nigeria
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PAGE 01 ROME 02963 151827Z

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ACTION: EUR 22

INFO: OCT 01, AF 12, NEA 13, IO 13, CIAE 00, DODE 00, JPM 04, H 02, IN 07,

L 03, NSAE 00, NSC 10, P 04, RSC 01, SP 02, SS 20, USIA 12, AID 28, E 15,

INT 06, SR 01, ORM 03, SCS 04, SCA 01, UPW 01, UCF 05, RSR 01, 191 W

021288

R 151710Z MAY 69

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 864

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY DARI ES SALAAM

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

USMISSION USUN

AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ROME 2963

SUBJECT: ITALIANS MISSING IN NIGERIA

REF: EMBTEL 2896

FOREIGN MINISTRY TELLS US THAT DESPITE REASSURING STATEMENTS OF BIAFRAN REPRESENTATIVES IN EUROPE, SITUATION RE MISSING ITALIAN, GERMAN AND LEBANESE OIL WORKERS HAS NOT CLARIFIED TO POINT WHERE CONFIDENCE IN THEIR SAFETY IS JUSTIFIED. MEANWHILE COMBINED GOVERNMENTAL AND ICRC MISSION LEFT ROME FOR SAO TOME MAY 14.

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POL 27-7 BIAFRA-NIGERIA

Department of State

TELEGRAM

4339
5-15-69

CONFIDENTIAL 293

PAGE 01 LAGOS 04339 151851Z

50

ACTION AF 18

INFO OCT 01, EUR 17, IO 13, UCF 05, UPW 01, SR 01, ORM 03, SCS 04, SCA 01,

CIAE 00, JPM 04, H 02, INR 07, L 03, NSAE 00, NSC 10, P 04, RSC 01, SP 02,

SS 20, USIA 12, AID 28, RSR 01, 158 W

021388

P 151656Z MAY 69
FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6583
INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY ACCRA
AMEMBASSY MONROVIA
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION GENEVA
CINCSRIKE
DIA
AMCONSUL IBADAN
AMCONSUL KADUNA

CONFIDENTIAL LAGOS 4339

SUBJECT: REBEL PENETRATION OF THE MID-WEST STATE

1. REUTERS CORRESPONDENT LAVALI (PROTECT) VISTED KWALE, DIVISIONAL HEADQUARTERS IN SOUTHEASTERN PORTION OF MID-WESTERN STATE MAY 13, AND 14. LAVALI INVESTIGATING REPORTS REBEL MILITARY ACTIVITY ON WEST BANK OF RIVER NIGER AND REPORTED KIDNAPING OF ITALIAN AND GERMAN OILMEN BY REBELS.

2. LAVALI FOUND FEDERAL TROOPS RETREATING IN DISARRAY ACROSS ASEI RIVER EAST OF KWALE. ACCORDING TO FEDERAL ARMY CAPTAIN IN KWALE, REBELS HAD "ELEMENTS OF FOUR BATTALIONS" BETWEEN NIGER AND ASEI RIVERS. REBELS COMMANDED BY (FNU) NZEFILI OF MIDWESTERN IBO ORIGIN LAVALI WAS TOLD FORMER FEDERAL ARMY OFFICERS OKON KWO ANK NWANWAO, MIDWEST IBOS ACTIVE IN FALL OF MIDWEST TO BE REBELS IN 1967 WERE LEADING REBEL TROOPS, MOST OF WHOM MIDWEST IBOS. (COMMENT: FACT MANY REBELS SAID TO BE IN

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Department of State **TELEGRAM**

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PAGE 02 LAGOS 04339 151851Z.

CIVILIAN CLOTHES LIKELY CAUSE TROUBLE FOR LOYALIST OR NEUTRAL IBOS IN MIDWEST)

3. LAVAL FOUND FEDERAL HEADQUARTERS STAFF FAIRLY CALM ABOUT SITUATION BUT REBEL RAIDS HAVE CAUSED SPATE OF RUMORS AND SPECULATIVE FEARS THROUGHOUT USUALLY TENSE MIDWEST.

4. ON FATE OF EXPATRIATE OIL WORKERS LAVAL TOLD BY FEDERAL OFFICER WHO INTERROGATED CAPTURED BIAFRAN LIEUTENANT THAT THREE GERMANS TAKEN AWAY BY REBELS. BASED ON HIS INVESTIGATION LAVAL BELIEVES IT POSSIBLE MOST IF NOT ALL ITALIANS HIDING IN BUSH BUT MORE LIKELY THEY TOO HAVE BEEN KIDNAPED BY BIAFRANS. LAVAL SPECULATES BIAFRANS MIGHT STAGE ELABORATE RELEASE OF OILMEN IN ORDER MAGNIFY REBEL MILITARY EXPLOITS. AS LAVAL POINTED OUT THIS ASSUMES ITALIANS NOT TAKEN BY TRIGGER HAPPY GROUP WHICH MAY MISS NICETIES OF GOOD PUBLIC RELATIONS AT WHICH BIAFRANS USUALLY ADEPT.
MATHEWS

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Authority VMD 950503
By MN NARA Date 10/5/05



POL 27-7 BIAFRA-NIGERIA
Department of State **TELEGRAM**

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PAGE 01 LAGOS 04327 151641Z

47
ACTION: AF 18

INFO: OCT 01, ID 13, EUR 17, INT 06, AID 28, UCF 05, UPW 01, SRI 01, ORM 03,

SCS 04, SCA 01, CIAE 00, DODE 00, JPM 04, HI 02, INRI 07, LI 03, NSAE 00,

NSC 10, P 04, RSC 01, SP 02, SS 20, USIA 12, E 15, COM 08, RSR 01, 187 W
020689

R 151509Z MAY 69
FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6575
INFO USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY ROME

CONFIDENTIAL LAGOS 4327

REF: LAGOS 4288

SUBJECT: MISSING OIL MEN

1. WE HAVE DISCUSSED CASE OF MISSING AGIP OIL MEN WITH ITALIAN CHARGE MARESCA, WHO APPARENTLY IS SOURCE OF MOST PRESS AND RADIO REPORTS ON SUBJECT. BASED ON REPORTS OF INDIGENES WHO ARE ABLE TO CIRCULATE IN AFFECTED AREA BETWEEN ASE AND NIGER RIVERS, MARESCA BELIEVES THAT AT LEAST FOUR CREWMEN ARE BEING HELD IN VILLAGE OF OKPAI AND UNDETERMINED NUMBER IN ABOH. AS PSYCHOLOGICAL MOVE IN HOPES BIAFRANS WOULD NOT HARM MEN AFTER IT HAS BEEN ANNOUNCED TO WORLD THAT THEY ARE SAFE, HE HAS PUT OUT REPORTS TO PRESS THAT ALL 29 KNOWN TO BE HELD IN THESE VILLAGES.

2. MARESCA REPORTS THAT FEDERAL TROOPS MOVED ALMOST TO SITE OF ONE DRILLING CAMP BUT WERE PUSHED BACK TO ASE RIVER BY BIAFRANS, WHO HE CLAIMS NUMBER SOME 700 IN THIS SECTOR. SAYS HE HAS HAD GOOD COOPERATION FROM FMG BOTH IN LAGOS AND AT SCENE. VILLAGE OF KWALE WEST OF ASE STILL HELD BY FMG.

3. MERESCA SAID HE HAD CONFERENCE WITH LINDT OF ICRC JUST BEFORE LATTE'S DEPARTURE YESTERDAY FOR BIAFRA AND LINDT AGREED TO LOOK INTO MATTER. SAID CARITAS HAS ALSO SENT MAN FROM ROME TO TAKE UP WITH BIAFRANS.

GP-3. MATHEWS

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Department of State

TELEGRAM

POL 27-7 BIAFRA-NIGERIA

5-14-69
4288

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PAGE 01 LAGOS 04288 141604Z

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ACTION AF 18

INFO OCT 01, IO 13, EUR 17, INT 06, AID 28, UCF 05, UPW 01, SR 01, ORM 03,
SCS 04, SCA 01, CIAE 00, DODE 00, UPM 04, HI 02, INR 07, LI 03, NSAE 00,
NSC 10, PI 04, RSC 01, SP 02, SS 20, USIA 12, E 15, COM 08, RSRI 01, 187 W
012801

R 141440Z MAY 69
FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6554
INFO USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY ROME

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LAGOS 4288

REF LAGOS 4210 ROME S 2896

SUBJECT MISSING OIL MEN

1. LOCAL AGIP MANAGER TELLS US THAT AS OF NOON MAY 14 STILL
NO RELIABLE WORD ON FATE OR WHEREABOUTS OF MISSING AGIP
CREWS. SAID ITALIAN PRESS REPORTS THAT MEN ARE IN OKPAI
AND ABOH ARE SPECULATIVE AND UNCONFIRMED.
EXEMPT
MATHEWS

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By MVA Date 10/5/05

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POL 27-7 Biafra-Nigeria
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PAGE: 01 ROME: 02872: 131102Z

12:
ACTION: EUR 22:

INFO: OCT 01, AF 12, NEA 13, IO 13, AID 28, UPW 01, UCF 05, CIAE 00, DODE 00,

UPM 04, H 02, INR 07, LI 03, NSAE 00, NSC 10, P 04, RSC 01, SP 02, SS 20,

USIA 12, RSR 01, 161 W

002943

R 131010Z MAY 69
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 824
INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY LONDON

POL 27-7 Biafra-Nigeria

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SUBJECT: ITALIANS MISSING IN NIGERIA

1. ACCORDING MOST RECENT PRESS REPORTS, 24 ITALIAN TECHNICIANS MISSING SINCE MAY 8 ARE BEING HELD BY BIAFRAN FORCES IN VILLAGES OF OKPAI AND ABOH, 400-500 KILOMETERS ENE OF LAGOS. TOGETHER WITH 3 GERMANS AND 2 LEBANESE, GROUP HAD BEEN WORKING AT KWALE FOR AGIP NIGERIAN OIL COMPANY (AGIP PLUS PHILLIPS) FROM LAST AUTUMN UNTIL CAMP INVESTED BY BIAFRANS LAST THURSDAY.

2. BECAUSE OF UNHAPPY MEMORIES OF ITALIAN MASSACRE AT KINDU IN CONGO, CAPTURE OF OIL TECHNICANS IS ATTRACTING CONSIDERABLE AND SENSATIONAL PRESS ATTENTION.

3. WE UNDERSTAND ITALIAN EMBASSIES AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS MISSIONS ARE TRYING ENLIST FRIENDLY SUPPORT TO OBTAIN RELEASE OF TECHNICANS, AND WE RECOMMEND THAT INTERESTED US MISSIONS GIVE THEIR ITALIAN COLLEAGUES WHATEVER HELP MAY BE POSSIBLE. ANY HARM TO TECHNICANS WOULD BE GREAT BLOW TO OUR HOPES OF INCREASED ITALIAN ECONOMIC AID TO AFRICA. MOREOVER, GOV OPENLY SYMPATHETIC TO BIAFRAN CAUSE.

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Authority VND 954/503
By MNA Date 10/5/05



PO L 27-7 Biafra-Nigeria
Department of State **TELEGRAM**

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PAGE 01 ROME 02896 132058Z

84

ACTION EUR 22

INFO OCT 01, AF 12, NEA 13, IO 13, AID 28, CIAE 00, DODE 00, JPM 00, H 02,

INR 07, L 03, NSAE 00, NSC 10, PI 04, RSC 01, SP 02, SS 20, USIA 12

UPW 01, UCF 05, RSR 01, /161 W

006662

R 131715Z MAY 69
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0832
INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY DARESSALAAM
USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
USUN NEW YORK 510
AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ROME 2896

SUBJECT: ITALIANS MISSING IN NIGERIA

REF: EMBTEL 2872 (NOTAL)

PO L 27-7 Biafra-Nigeria

1. FOREIGN MINISTRY'S DIRECTOR AFRICAN AFFAIRS MAY 13 TOLD EMBOFF MINISTRY WOULD GREATLY APPRECIATE ANY SUPPORT USG MIGHT BE ABLE TO GIVE TO ITALIAN EFFORTS TO LOCATE AND LIBERATE 24 ITALIAN TECHNICIANS BELIEVED IN HANDS BIAFRAN FORCES. (THERE ALSO THREE GERMAN AND TWO LEBANESE NATIONALS.) MINISTRY REPI SAID GOI EFFORTS BEING CONCENTRATED ON ICRC AND CARITAS, AND SUPPORTING US APPROACHES TO BOTH OF THEM WOULD BE WELCOME.

2. ITALIAN AMBASSADOR MANFREDI, NOW IN ROME, TOLD EMBOFF IT NOT CLEAR THAT TECHNICIANS IN HANDS REGULAR BIAFRAN UNITS. HE COULD ONLY HOPE THEY WERE. HE SAID HE URGING GOI TO GET IN TOUCH WITH BIAFRAN REPRESENTATIVES IN MAJOR EUROPEAN CAPITALS.

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By MNARA Date 10/5/05



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PAGE 02 ROME 02896 132058Z

HE ACKNOWLEDGED THAT US LEVERAGE WITH BIAFRA LIMITED, BUT
SAID US HELP VERY DESIRABLE WITH SOMETIMES SLUGGISH ICRC.
ACKLEY

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Authority VND 959503
By MN NARA Date 10/5/05



POL 27-7 BIAFRA-NIGERIA
Department of State **TELEGRAM**

UNCLASSIFIED: 583

PAGE 01 LAGOS 00290 132003Z

49
ACTION AF 16

INFO EUR 15, IO 13, CIAE 00, DODE 00, GPM 04, HI 02, INR 07, LI 03, NSAE 00,

NSC 10, PI 04, RSC 01, SP 02, SS 20, USIA 12, SAH 02, AID 28, SCA 01,

SCS 04, ORM 03, SR 01, RSR 01, 149 W

072111

R 131633Z JAN 69
FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4401
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON
USMISSION GENEVA
USMISSION USUN NY

UNCLAS LAGOS 290

SUBJECT: FURTHER FMG CHARGES AGAINST ICRC

1. ON JAN 13 FMG ISSUED PRESS RELEASE HEADED QTE RED
CROSS AIDS REBELS UNQTE. TEXT FOLLOWS:

A. PRISONERS OF WAR CAPTURED LAST WEEKEND IN ADVANCE OF FEDERAL
TROOPS TOWARDS NNEWI HAVE CONFIRMED THAT ICRC IS ACTIVELY ENGAGED
IN COMPILATION OF SITUATION REPORTS FOR REBELS.

B. WHEN FEDERAL TROOPS RESUMED ADVANCE TOWARDS NNEWI, A REBEL
UNIT WAS ENCOUNTERED AND COMPLETELY ROUTED. THE COMMANDING
OFFICER COULD NOT REVEAL HIS DISASTER TO REBEL HIERARCHY.

C. AS RESULT OF TRUE SITUATION REPORT FROM ICRC, REBEL HIERARCHY
REDUCED COMMANDING OFFICER FROM LT. COL. TO CAPTAIN AND HIS
SECOND IN COMMAND FROM MAJOR TO LIEUTENANT.
MATHEWS

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POL 27-7 BIAFRA-NIGERIA
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Department of State **TELEGRAM**

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PAGE 01 LAGOS 00160 081552Z

45
ACTION AF 16

INFO EUR 15, IO 13, SAH 02, SR 01, ORM 03, SCS 04, SCA 01, SA 01, SAL 01,

CIAE 00, GPM 04, H 02, INR 07, LI 03, NSAE 00, NSC 10, PI 04, RSC 01, SP 02,

SS 20, USIA 12, RSR 01, AID 28, 151 W

046564

P: R 081425Z JAN 69
FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4325
INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY NIAMEY
AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
USMISSION GENEVA
USMISSION USUN NY
CINCSRIKE/CINCEAFSA
DIA
AMCONSUL IBADAN
AMCONSUL KADUNA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LAGOS 160

SUBJECT: OBSERVERS REVISIT KIRIKIRI PRISON

REF: LAGOS A-993, A-958, A-935

1. ON JAN 7, INTERNATIONAL OBSERVERS' TEAM LED BY GENERAL RAAB, ACCOMPANIED BY UN AND OAU REPS, PAID FURTHER VISIT TO KIRIKIRI PRISON, A CIVIL PRISON USED TO HOUSE POW'S. OBSERVERS DECLINED TO MAKE PUBLIC COMMENTS AND NO REPORT ISSUED YET, BUT VOA CORRESPONDENT ACCOMPANYING GROUP, TOGETHER WITH OTHER NEWSMEN, FILED REPORT STATING THERE ARE NOW OVER SIX HUNDRED POW'S INCLUDING SIXTEEN OFFICERS IN THIS PRISON. POW'S DESCRIBED BY HIM AS QTE NOT SEEMING UNDERNOURISHED UNQTE BUT ILL-CLAD. PRISONERS COMPLAINED

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PAGE 02: LAGOS 00160 081552Z

TO OBSERVERS OF INADEQUATE FOOD, LACK OF SHELTER AND CLOTHING AND INFREQUENT VISITS BY RC PERSONNEL. VOA CORRESPONDENT FURTHER REPORTS THAT WHEN THESE COMPLAINTS RAISED WITH PRISON SUPERINTENDENT HE REPLIED QTE THIS IS CIVIL PRISON AND WE ARE NOT CONVERSANT WITH GENEVA CONVENTION UNQTE, ADDING THEY DID NOT WANT POW'S THERE BUT WERE FORCED TO TAKE THEM AND WERE DOING BEST POSSIBLE. STATED THAT RC VISITED ABOUT ONCE A MONTH AND EXPRESSED WISH THAT ARMY WOULD TAKE POW'S OUT AND RETURN PRISON TO ORIGINAL CIVIL FUNCTION. OBSERVERS TALKED WITH ALL POW OFFICERS AND MANY ENLISTED MEN. REPORTEDLY TEN OFFICERS AND NOT ENLISTED MEN SAID THAT THEY STILL WANT TO FIGHT FOR BIAFRA WHILE SIX OFFICERS AND SOME EM EXPRESSED WILLINGNESS TO JOIN FMG FORCES.

2. COMMENT: REPAIRS REPORT UN, OAU AND INTERNATIONAL OBSERVERS' REPORTS ON PREVIOUS VISIT TO THIS PRISON. AT TIME OF PREVIOUS VISIT NOV 1, ONLY 292 POW'S HELD AT KIRIKIRI AND OBSERVERS' REPORTS POINTED PARTICULARLY TO OVERCROWDING OF POW'S AS PROBLEM AND ALSO REPORTED SAME COMPLAINTS FROM PRISONERS. SEEMS THAT RATHER THAN RELIEVING PREVIOUS OVERCROWDING NUMBER OF PRISONERS NOW OVER DOUBLE NUMBER FOUND THERE ONLY TWO MONTHS AGO. RECOMMENDATIONS MADE BY OBSERVERS AT THAT TIME DO NOT SEEM TO HAVE BEEN CARRIED OUT EXCEPT RC VISITS SLIGHTLY MORE REGULAR. PREVIOUS REPORTS STATED FOOD QTE ADEQUATE UNQTE AND THIS STILL SEEMS TO BE CASE. SUPERINTENDENT'S STATEMENTS ABOUT GENEVA CONVENTION LIKELY TO PROVE PARTICULARLY EMBARRASSING TO FMG, ESPECIALLY SINCE OBSERVERS STATED THAT THEY HAD SPECIFICALLY DISCUSSED CONVENTION WITH PRISON AUTHORITIES AT TIME OF FIRST VISIT, ON OTHER HAND, CONFIRMATION OF EXISTENCE OF SO MANY POW'S IN ONE PRISON CONSTITUTES SOLID EVIDENCE THAT FMG NOT PRACTICING GENOCIDE, DATT CURRENTLY ATTEMPTING TO ESTABLISH TOTAL NUMBER POW'S NOW IN FMG HANDS. ACTUAL COUNT AT KIRIKIRI IS 648.

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ARMY	CIA	NAVY
OSD	USIA	NSA

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TO : Department of State

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

INFO : Geneva

OCT 11 12 03 PM 1968

RS AN
ANALYSIS BRANCH

DATE: October 10, 1968

FROM : Amembassy LAGOS

SUBJECT : ICRC Inspection of Prisoner of War Installations in Nigeria.

REF :

On September 27 the Embassy's Economic Counselor asked Mr. G. Schuerch, Head of the ICRC Delegation in Lagos, what the ICRC had been doing by way of inspection of prisoner of war installations. Mr. Schuerch said that this problem was very much on his mind. The last inspection in Federal Military Government territory had been made four weeks previously when two prisons were inspected and conditions found to be satisfactory. In order to carry out more effectively the responsibilities of the ICRC in connection with prisoners of war, Mr. Schuerch expects soon to have an officer assigned from Geneva for this purpose. Mr. Schuerch had no information on the situation behind rebel lines.

MATHEWS

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FORM 4-2 DS-323

Drafted by:
ECON:WGJones:kmc 10-9-68Contents and Classification Approved by:
ECON:WGJones

Clearances:

William S. Jones

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Authority VND 950/503
By MVA Date 10/5/05

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POL 27-7 BIAFRA-NIGERIA
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PAGE 01 KADUNA 00221 292345Z

11
ACTION AF 21

INFO EUR 25, IO 21, SP 02, SS 35, GPM 03, SC 01, NSC 10, RSC 01, L 03, H 02
P 04, USIA 12, CIA 04, NSAE 00, INR 07, RSR 01, AID 30, SAH 03, /185 W

*Kaduna 221
8-28-68*

R 281600Z AUG 67 ZFG
FM AMCONSUL KADUNA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 461
INFO AMEMBZCSY LAGOS 936
AMEMBASSY LONDON 227
AMCONSUL ENUGU 285
AMCONSUL IBADAN 273
DIA UNN
CINCLANT UNN
CINCSRIKE/CINCMCAFSA UNN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE KADUNA 221

1. NEW NIGERIAN AUGUST 28 CARRIES BOLD HEADLINE "OJUKWU'S
'WAR ADVISER' HELD" AND IDENTIFIES HIM AS WHITE MERCENARY
WHO DISGUISED HIMSELF IN ROBES OF ROMAN CATHOLIC FATHER.
ARTICLE GOES ON TO SAY THAT:

PAGE 2 RUTALS 221KK C O N F I D E N T I A L LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
A. "MERCENARY" CONFESSED TO BE HEAD OF "LOGISTICS" OF
REBEL ARMY AS WELL AS SPY ON FEDERAL TROOP MOVEMENTS.
B. FOLLOWING CONFESSION, FEDERAL TROOPS TOOK HIM TO UN-
IDENTIFIED PLACE WHERE HE HAD BEEN SUPPLYING ARMS AND AMMO
TO REBEL SOLDIERS, AND REMAINDER ARMS SEIZED.
C. HE WAS HELD AT OBOLO-EKE, TWELVE MILES FROM IKEM, AND
IS NOW IN UNIDENTIFIED POW CAMP.
2. COMMENT: WE WILL CHECK WITH RCM HEADQUARTERS HERE ON

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Authority VND954503
By MNA Date 10/5/05



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PAGE 02 KADUNA 00221 292345Z

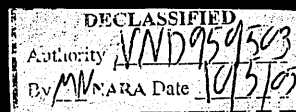
POSSIBILITY THEY HAVE ANY INFORMATION.

3. NEW NIGERIAN SAME DATE CONTINUES TO CARRY LETTERS TO EDITOR LAMBASTING USG AND IN PARTICULAR STATE DEPARTMENT. SOME COMMENTS PARAPHRASED FROM VARIOUS LETTERS STATE:
A. WHY DOES STATE DEPARTMENT CONSIDER RUSSIAN SALE OF ARMS TO LEGAL NIGERIAN GOVERNMENT A CRIMINAL ACT?
B. WHY DOES STATE DEPARTMENT NOT CONSIDER IT NECESSARY, IN SPITE OF EFFICIENCY OF CIA, TO TELL WORLD ABOUT THE ILLEGAL ARMS TRAFFIC TO ENUGU WITH HELP OF AMERICAN AGENCIES?

PAGE 3 RUTALS 221KK C O N F I D E N T I A L LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
C. LET AMERICANS KNOW THAT IF THEY HAVE MORAL OBLIGATION TO PREVENT SPREAD OF COMMUNISM IN VIET-NAM, THE FMG HAS EVEN GREATER MORAL DUTY TO KEEP NIGERIA ONE. ALTHOUGH THERE NO QUARREL WITH AMERICANS, STATE DEPARTMENT IS A COMPLETE FAILURE IN HANDLING FOREIGN AFFAIRS.
D. OTHER COMMENTS INCLUDE ALLEGATION THAT USG STATEMENT ON SOVIET ARMS IS PRETEXT FOR AMERICA TO SIDE WITH REBELS. " SHE REFUSED TO SELL US ARMS AND NOBODY WOULD HAVE COMPLAINED BECAUSE WE KNOW U.S. DESPERATELY NEEDS THOSE ARMS FOR HER AGGRESSION IN VIET-NAM."
DECON 8/28/69 ARP

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POL 27-7 BIAFRA - NIGERIA
 AR SOC 3 RED CROSS
 Department of State **TELEGRAM**

Lagos 11793
8-17-68

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ACTION AF 15

INFO EUR 15, IO 13, SAH 02, NSA 02, CIAE 00, DODE 00, GPM 04, H 02, INR 07,
 L 03, NSC 10, P 04, RSC 01, SP 02, SS 20, USIA 12, AID 28, SR 01, ORM 03,
 SCS 04, SCA 02, RSR 01, 151 W

R 171215Z AUG 68
 FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS
 TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2059
 AMEMBASSY LONDON
 INFO USMISSION GENEVA
 USUN 347

CONFIDENTIAL LAGOS 11793

SUBJ: ICRC AND NIGERIAN POW'S

1. ACCORDING TO RADIO BIAFRA, NINETY-SEVEN NIGERIAN OFFICERS AND MEN HAVE RECENTLY BEEN "HANDED OVER TO THE INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS".

2. UKHICOM (PROTECT) QUERIED GENEVA ON THE REPORT AND RECEIVED THE FOLLOWING REPLY ON AUGUST 15: "BECAUSE OF GREAT ACTIVITY BY ICRC IN CONNECTION WITH LINDT'S VISIT HERE YESTERDAY, IT HAS ONLY BEEN POSSIBLE TO DISCUSS THIS MATTER WITH ICRC THIS MORNING. THEY INFORM ME THAT THEY WERE ASKED BY BIAFRANS TO TAKE OVER PRISONERS REFERRED TO AND ALSO FORTY OTHERS ALREADY HELD--TWO OFFICERS AND THIRTY-EIGHT MEN. THE ICRC REPLIED THEY ARE NOT ABLE TO TAKE CUSTODY OF THESE PRISONERS THEMSELVES, BUT THEY ARE STUDYING URGENTLY THE PROBLEM OF HELPING WITH THEIR EVACUATION. IN FACT, ICRC ARE IN TOUCH WITH FMG AND WITH GOVERNMENTS OF OTHER COUNTRIES THROUGH WHICH PRISONERS WOULD HAVE TO PASS IN TRANSIT. IF FMG WILL NOT ACCEPT THEM BACK INTO FEDERAL TERRITORY, THEN ICRC WILL ATTEMPT TO ARRANGE THEIR PROVISIONAL INTERNMENT IN A THIRD COUNTRY. THEIR JOURNEYS WOULD BE ORGANIZED BY ICRC. AT PRESENT PRISONERS REMAIN IN BIAFRAN HANDS".

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 Authority VND 954503
 By MVA Date 10/5/05